VALLEY VOICE

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Tulare County Sues Its Own Employees

Catherine Doe

Formal charges were filed on September 17 by Tulare County against the Service Employee International Union (SEIU). The California Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) will begin investigating allegations of unfair labor practices against SEIU Local 521. After a presentation by County Counsel Kathleen Bales-Lange and a public discussion, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted on August 26 to file charges against SEIU as a result of the union's conduct during negotiations.

The county's charges include: making regressive proposals, failing to prepare for bargaining sessions, failing to make proposals or counterproposals, making burdensome information requests, violating ground rules, attempting to bargain on behalf of additional employees midway through negotiations, making false and misleading public statements about negotiations, and bypassing county negotiators and attempting to bargain directly with members of the board of supervisors.

"The rules of negotiation were violated by SEIU which caused delays in reaching an agreement for both parties," said Rhonda Sjostrom, county human resources director. "Ultimately, these delays cost our employees and cost the taxpayers."

The alleged practices took place between March and July, when SEIU and the county were in negotiations for a new labor contract. SEIU and the county met for 12 bargaining sessions and exchanged additional proposals during the negotiation process.

The BOS approved a one-year contract with SEIU on July 29. The agreement includes a 3% base wage increase for each employee and reinstates the "sick leave buy-back" program. SEIU represents approximately 2,800 county employees who lost $484,000, or an average of $172 per employee, because of delays caused by SEIU, as stated in the filing. SEIU receives a total of $812,452 in dues and fair share payments annually from county employees.

"We as a board are very unhappy with the conduct of SEIU's paid negotiating team and feel they need to make

COUNTY SUES continued on **10 »**

McKay Point on the Kaweah River

McKay Point Reservoir Concerns Locals – Part II

Catherine Doe

From the Sierra Nevada Mountains flows the Kaweah River. This river can rage through the Valley creating floods, or more commonly, be reduced to a trickle in the summer months even before it was dammed in 1962. About a mile north of Sequoia Union Elementary School and 2.5 miles south of Woodlake is an isolated area called McKay Point where the St. Johns River splits off from the Kaweah River. This is where "mother nature made a wonderful recharge area of sand and gravel." It is this resource that has been a magnet for gravel companies since the 1960s.

Three water companies own McKay Point and want to construct a reservoir, Tulare Irrigation District (TID), Consolidated Peoples Ditch Company (CPDC) and the Visalia and Kaweah Water Company (VKWC). They plan on paying for the construction of the $12 million reservoir by using royalties earned through mining the gravel. CEMEX has been contracted to do the work and will be monitored by TID. The 4,000-acre-foot reservoir will be used to increase irrigation runs, increase efficiency of the hydroelectric dam at Terminus, and aid in flood control. As a reference, Bravo Lake in Woodlake holds 5,000 acre-feet of water.

The September 4 issue of the *Valley Voice* introduced the link between McKay Point Reservoir, Stillwell Mine, and the two mines at the Lemon Cove Project. This connection runs far beyond the fact that the four sites excavate gravel. According to the Project Description, "The owners propose to initiate construction of the McKay Point Reservoir as the mining activities at the Stillwell Project are ending. As the Stillwell project ends, CEMEX' excavation and other related equipment would move to the McKay Point Reservoir site, thereby reducing the need for duplicate sets of equipment and eliminating the cumulative impacts of combined air emissions." It would also mean no increase in truck traffic and wear and tear on our roads. The Lemon Cove Facility's original processing plant, built in the 1960s, has been torn down. The plant has been replaced with portable machines that crush the gravel that could be moved to the McKay Point Mine if need be.

The projects will also be linked through the use of the CEMEX' existing ponds. As CEMEX extracts the gravel from McKay Point, the pit created will fill with water. The water will be pumped into a recharge trench and any extra will be pumped into the existing ponds at the Lemon Cove Project.

Concerns Allayed

George Clausen, who lives next to the Lemon Cove facility, knows firsthand what a mine can do to the water table. He and several other neighbors of CEMEX have had their wells go down significantly or completely dry.

A local resident lamented, "Stillwell is a real black eye for the proposed reservoir. If CEMEX can't get a little project like Stillwell right, how are we supposed to trust them with McKay Point Reservoir?"

Because TID will be holding the mining permit, Clausen explained that the McKay Project is completely different from a typical gravel mine. The project is an irrigation district trying to make the most out of Tulare County's limited water, versus CEMEX tying to make a buck (or a million.) "I trust an irrigation district a heck of a lot more than a gravel mining company," said Clausen. "TID won't do something to destroy the aquifer whereas CEMEX would."

According to Aaron Fukuda, TID engineer, "The owners are also long-standing public and private entities within the Tulare County area with a vested interest in sustaining the viability of the area, including the ability to retain and bolster surface water supplies. The owners believe that the relationship between the parties (county, owners and Cemex) will produce the highest level of accountability such that issues will be addressed and impacts will be minimized. If the owners don't comply with their county-issued

MCKAY POINT continued on **16 »**

Lemon Cove Wells Slowly Regain Water After CEMEX Fills Trench

Catherine Doe

Locals lament lack of leadership from their supervisors

It's one step forward and two steps back for the residents who live next to the Stillwell mine in Lemon Cove. In January, several residents' wells dried up when CEMEX stopped filling the recharge trench that maintained their water levels. The multi-national initially refused to fill the recharge trench because someone stole the wiring to the pumps that transferred the water from their pond. CEMEX then tried to blame the drought for the dry wells but got called out on their false allegations by a peer report conducted by the Tully and Young consulting firm.

In a dramatic turn of events, and with no logical reason given, CEMEX decided to turn the pumps back on and fill the trenches. Several hypotheses have been postulated by those affected as to why, but one thing is for sure, it is not going smoothly.

CEMEX was to start filling the recharge trenches on September 2. That was a Wednesday. By Thursday they were still having trouble locating their pump and getting it started. When they finally located the pumps submerged in their pond and turned them on, a faulty flip-off switch

WELLS continued on **13 »**

Elderwood Heights Becomes Legal Decision

Steve Pastis

After postponing a decision about the proposed Elderwood Heights development twice, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors finally took a vote at their September 23 meeting. Their decision was to send the plan back to the planning commission, and it was based on an interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

"The property is zoned to do exactly what the property owner wants to do on it," said Supervisor Steve Worthley, who cited the Fifth Amendment as protecting the rights of private property owners. "We're not here to pass judgment on the property. We're here to uphold the law."

Worthley called for the property owners to do an environmental report and resubmit the proposal through the planning commission. "I know some people are upset that the process has taken so long but this is what the law allows. When we go back through this process, then the board will have a decision to be made at some point in the future."

With that, he moved to adopt Alternate Proposal #1, which refers the proposal back to staff for further study and report, and requires "clustering (of homes) and a reduction in lot size, water sustainability analysis at each phase and possible mediation between the two parties

ELDERWOOD continued on **6 »**

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Letterman

That'd be me, if I were a superhero. No ridiculous tights and cape, no backstory or idiosyncrasy, no gadgets--certainly no mask--just a manual typewriter, and the task of writing a letter. Appalling though my penmanship is, still, I am a good letter writer because I take it seriously--I would, after all, be mailing my whole self off to someone. You'd get a dense and lengthy letter from me if we were writing one another: newsy, inquisitive, self-deprecating, full of jokes and cartoons, the occasional poem--sometimes even original music. Chords. But I don't write them anymore; neither, sadly, does anyone else. And if I told someone I was a letter man, rather than correctly attributing this to my being old school, I'd likely be asked--"In what sport?" Social media and a culture of instant gratification have injected a quaintness into the exchange of letters--that is, of course, if they have not made it absolutely obsolete.

Everyone well knows this. Is it any wonder that the United States Postal Service is slowly failing? Ask yourself: When was the last time you received a personal letter? Can you even remember? And which would you prefer--that, or any version of email via social media on a phone or computer? I, of course, hold with paper--precisely because you can hold it. And you can keep it. I have kept some letters for more than 30 years now, a few still folded in their envelopes. These artifacts resurrect not only their authors, but time and place both. They are tangible and, holding them, I can journey back to their origins. Try that with an email. Even if you printed and retained them, holding emails is an entirely different species of experience. I know this because my wife saved a whole binder of them from the time we lived in Cabo San Lucas, and these I read through about ten years ago. In my hands they were similarly dry and lifeless as leaves that have turned with autumn.

Alas--this digital age!

Yet it would be disingenuous not to mention any enjoyment of its benefits. Indeed, I just posted on Facebook a picture my mother emailed to me: My sister, father and nephew in Berkeley's Memorial Stadium yesterday savoring the Bears' 59-56 double-overtime victory over Colorado. This is undeniably fantastic, as are many of today's instantly disseminated photographs. There are limits, however. Heart-warming as pets may be, I nevertheless easily tire of seeing snapshots of their various naps and hijinks. Rare is the image than can capture a pet's essence--so a barrage of these is more of a disservice than anything else. Worse, though, is the onslaught of plated meals. Unless it's abalone--in which case I'd be insanely jealous and would, in particular, not be desirous of seeing your dinner pictured--I could not possibly ever care what the waiter brought you. Call me incurious; hell, call me cantankerous. I want to see pictures of people--friends and loved-ones. But even this has its limitation. This, you can call the ubiquitous selfie. Enough already! Does nobody remember the idiom, "Familiarity breeds contempt?"

This is, in part, why--weirdly--I find it difficult sometimes to be Facebook friends with a number of my oldest and closest real life friends. It also explains how I can be good Facebook friends with mere acquaintances, some of whom I have never even met. These intolerable selfies, whose nickname entirely captures the self-absorption behind them, stand in stark contrast to the whole-self gift of the letter writer. A selfie requires no more than a thoughtless second; writing a good letter, on the other hand, might take several days.

But here's a disclaimer for you: Even I have taken such a self-portrait. Once, in 1987, and with a camera that contained--ready?--film. This was no arm's-length attempt. Rather--using the camera's timer and a banked reflection off two full-length mirrors--I was simply curious if I could accomplish the shot. So: There exists a single printed copy of myself ostensibly talking on the telephone with Cal's Sproul Hall to schedule fall classes 27 years ago.

So much is different now, though much remains unchanged. While technology has made communication vast and instant--it is now not uncommon to speak simultaneously with two different friends so far afield, say, as France and San Francisco--still, unsurpassed is the thrill of holding a letter from someone you hold dear.

A close second is the joy of reading the collected letters of some imposing personage of yesteryear. Always revealing, these consistently prove to be more insightful than any biography. For context and innumerable tiny detail, personal letters are a gold mine. Want to know more about--I don't know--Ernest Hemingway? Read his collected letters. Can you imagine there will ever exist the collected emails of anyone alive now? We'll only be left with a collage of selfies.

I do my best, every two weeks, to buck this hideous trend--which is why this column isn't always a commentary on the newsworthy or a spate of opinion. I do my best, every two weeks, to write a letter--of sorts--to the reading public. I have given you news, been self-deprecating, jokesy, and the occasional poem has appeared here. Let's just agree to leave cartoons and original music for later, maybe in a real letter.

— Joseph Oldenbourg

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Political Fix

Catherine Doe

Dysfunction Junction

Former Woodlake City Administrator Bill Lewis has a bone to pick with State Assembly candidate and Woodlake Mayor Rudy Mendoza. At the September 16 Candidate's Forum, Mr. Mendoza claimed that, while mayor of Woodlake, he converted a $1 million dollar deficit to a budget surplus and completely replaced the city's dysfunctional staff.

"As former city administrator, I assume he is talking about me," said Mr. Lewis.

For one, only the city council has the authority to replace three positions: the city clerk, city attorney and the city administrator. The rest of the staff is hired or fired by the latter. Mr. Lewis explained that it is true that in the last few years those three office holders were replaced, but they left voluntarily. The city attorney left for a better job in South Lake Tahoe. The city clerk left in very good standing, and the city administrator--Mr. Lewis--left in good standing after 16 years on the job.

"If the city administration was so dysfunctional then why did Rudy vote to give me, the city administrator, a four-year contract?"

It is generally accepted that Woodlake Police Chief John Zapalac was pushed out of office, but the mayor alone doesn't have the authority to do that. Nor would everyone agree that Chief Zapalac was dysfunctional.

In addition to Mr. Mendoza's comments about the budget, he said, at a candidates' forum in April, that Woodlake was bankrupt, or near bankruptcy, before he was mayor.

Mr. Lewis explained that the general fund had run a deficit because of the recession. But he pointed out that there is a huge difference between a deficit in the general fund and a town on the verge of bankruptcy. Mr. Lewis was not sure what the deficit was but knows it wasn't $1 million, or even close. It was somewhere around $650,000. "Rudy shows a lack of government finance knowledge in general and lack of bankruptcy knowledge in particular by making such an irresponsible statement," said Mr. Lewis.

"You expect politicians to take liberties with the truth but that's a little bit overboard."

What is the former city administrator doing now? Mr. Lewis is now enjoying his retirement working part-time at the Lemon Cove Market and reading Political Fix.

Mr. Mendoza is running for State Assembly District 26 against Iraq War veteran Devon Mathis. Both are Republicans.

Democrats Endorse Cabello, Longoria or Musgrove

The Tulare County Democratic Party has endorsed three candidates, two for city council and one for school board: Art Cabello for Tulare City Council, Armando Longoria for Dinuba City Council and Priscilla Musgrove for Tulare City Elementary School Board.

"Mr. Cabello is the most qualified, experienced and knowledgeable candidate for the position hands down," said Ruben Macareno, TCDP chair. "He is a lifelong resident of District 2, he has a long list of community service, has the most experience with governmental affairs and he is knowledgeable of the inner workings of the council and the City of Tulare."

TCDP has also endorsed Longoria, a long-time resident of Dinuba. He is a current police commissioner and narrowly lost in a few elective efforts before. The other candidate the party endorsed is Priscilla Musgrove, for Tulare City Schools.

As for Woodlake's City Council race, all bets are off with nine people running for three seats. Rudy Mendoza, Woodlake mayor said, "It's good to see an interest in serving on the Woodlake City Council. The city has seen some tremendous growth and the candidates I have talked to are proud and wish to be a part of Woodlake's renaissance. I am not endorsing anyone in this race." Neither is the TCDP. According to Mr. Macareno, "I like the incumbents, of which only two are running, but I don't know any of the others very well. Should be an interesting race."

TCDP endorsed Virginia Gurrola for Tulare County Supervisor District 5 in the primary. "She stands up for all communities that seek a voice in government. She is experienced, having severed three terms on the city council and community leader whom has demonstrated a solid commitment to the Porterville area. She is a retiree from Porterville College where she served students for over 37 years," said Mr. Macareno.

The local party's executive committee has identified Mr. Cabello, Mr. Longoria and supervisorial candidate Ms. Gurrola as Flip-to-Blue candidates where the party will offer available resources to supplement those local campaigns. The local pilot program, created by Mr. Macareno, supports specific Democratic candidates running for office where campaigns are viable against non-Democratic elected officials.

None of the Above

The California Secretary of State just released the party registration numbers. It seems a quarter of Californians don't want to be a Republican or Democrat. They registered instead as Independents or "no party preference (NPP)." Sounds like Californians are getting sick of the status quo. I wonder: should "none of the above" be a ballot option?

Statewide, registered Republicans are at an all time low at 28.3%. The Democrats are at 43.4%. Both parties lost voters to NPP, with the Republicans losing the most. Tulare and Kings Counties continually buck the trend with about a ten-point advantage going to the Republicans. Fresno County, on the other hand, tipped to a Democrat majority in 2010 and it is growing larger every year. Right now it is at 40% to 36.6%.

Registration numbers set the scene for what is happening right now in the election. Ashley Swearengin, running for state controller, and Blong Xiong, running for district 1 Fresno County supervisor, traded endorsements last week. "I support Xiong because he is the right man for the job," said Ms. Swearengin. Mr. Xiong said that there is mutual respect between the two and they both survived the Great Recession.

Wow, what inspirational endorsements. That should bring the voters out in droves.

These two Wile E. Coyotes have been polar opposites since entering the world of elected office, and now they want us to join in their politically motivated love fest? But there is no love lost between these two, so let's just cut to the chase. Democrat Mr. Xiong lives in a conservative district and needs the Republican vote. Republican Ms. Swearengin lives in a liberal state and needs the Democrat vote. Thus the endorsements.

Instead of Ms. Swearengin cuddling up to a fellow moderate Republican, gubernatorial candidate Neel Kashkari, she's hopped into bed with a liberal Democrat strictly for political purposes. And this explains the raison d'etre of political columns and pundits.

Of all the statewide offices, only two Republicans have an outside chance of winning. They are Pete Peterson, running for secretary of state, and Ms. Swearengin. Both have been castigated for not endorsing Mr. Kashkari. In fact, Ms. Swearengin has refused to say if she will even vote for Mr. Kashkari and will not endorse the Republican slate of candidates. She has only endorsed Mr. Peterson. The *Fresno Bee* editorial states, "The brands of Swearengin and Peterson, according to the most recent Field Poll, are resonating better with voters than the GOP brand as a whole. Knowing that they must appeal to moderate Democrats and moderate independents to win, Swearengin and Peterson made the smart choice to signal their interest in attracting bipartisan support."

Ms. Swearengin and Mr. Peterson claim, along with other moderate Republicans, that they are trying to put a new face on the Republican Party. They endorse candidates across the aisle because they are leading "the new post-partisan coalition growing in California politics." At a recent GOP convention, Ms. Swearengin said, "We are going to need as big a coalition as possible for any chance of victory. In my view we ought to embrace any and all who are willing to accept the challenge of restoring the long-term financial health of the state."

Any party whose registration numbers have gotten as low as the Republicans' need something clever, so "post-partisan" is as good as the next catch phrase. It's actually more like post-partum politics, where the pain of birthing a new California has only just begun. Trying to forge a post-partisan/partum political environment between the Republicans and Democrats in an era of capitol paralysis will be a painful growing process, so if they are truly serious, they better "buckle-up because it's going to be a bumpy ride."

The *Fresno Bee* titled their editorial, "Swearengin shows her courage, independence." But one only has to look at the state's registration numbers to realize that her endorsement of Mr. Xiong and Mr. Peterson is pure politics. Does Ms. Swearengin represent those who feel disenfranchised by their party? Is she the one to lead the post-partisan era in California? Or, when it comes to the ballot box November 4, will voters just mark, "none of the above?"

Mid-term Elections Are No Friend to the Democrats

Republicans and Democrats are in a fight over control of the Senate, but no such fight exists for the Republican-controlled House. Despite the government shutdown, gridlock and dismal opinion poll ratings, the Republicans will retain the House.

To take control of the Senate, the Republicans need to pick up six seats. Unlike the smaller gerrymandered congressional districts that are impossible to flip, some Senate races are actually competitive. Right now, Republicans are favored to win the Democratic-held seats in Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Montana, South Dakota and West Virginia--so all political wonks are monitoring those elections daily. But in a strange twist of political fate, the Republicans might lose redder-than-red Kansas. The Republican incumbent there is not well liked by his own party, and the Democratic candidate dropped out of the race at the last minute. That left a popular Independent who caucuses with the Democrats polling way ahead of the Republican. If the Republicans do lose Kansas they would need to pick up a seat somewhere else. That somewhere could easily be Iowa or Colorado.

In football terms, it's what we call having a deep offense.

The *New York Times* and Nate Silver, famous political prognosticator, are predicting the Republicans have a 60% chance of taking over the Senate. On the other hand, Sam Wang of The Princeton Election Consortium gives a 70% chance to the Democrats to retain the Senate. There are four weeks left before the election.

As usual, California does not reflect national politics and the Democrats easily control the Assembly and the Senate. Their challenge in November is to regain the two-house supermajority that they lost after three senators got kicked out for corruption. "A two-thirds Democratic supermajority would help Brown pursue his agenda, because no Republican support would be needed for any of his proposals. But Brown, who is expected to win his own race handily and has not mounted a time-consuming campaign of his own, has not committed to any appearances," according to the *L.A. Times*.

This may be because Gov. Brown has done just fine without a Democratic supermajority. He is well able to work with Republicans, and did so in getting a water bond and rainy day fund on the ballot while signing other major legislation. In the Assembly, Democrats currently hold 55 seats, one more than the minimum two-thirds margin. In the Senate, Democrats need to pick up two seats to regain the two-thirds majority they lost with the suspension of three senators facing criminal charges.

And Lastly…

According to Reuters, "50.2% of American adults over the age of 16 – roughly 124.6 million people – were single in August, according to a new Bureau of Labor Statistics report cited by Bloomberg. This marks the first time that single Americans make up the majority of the adult population since the government began tracking the data 38 years ago."

Diageo Answers Call for Fresh Water

Diageo, a leading premium drinks company, donated more than 34,000 bottles of drinking water to residents of Tulare County, who are among the hardest hit by California's severe drought. The donation comes as the state confronts one of the worst droughts on record, with many towns facing the prospect of running out of drinking water in the next 60 to 90 days. Diageo facilitated the delivery of 34,560 bottles of water – enough to fill a semi truck – to the Friends of Tulare County, one of the counties facing severe water shortages as a result of the drought.

"We are grateful for Diageo's support during the drought," said Assembly Republican Leader Connie Conway (R-Tulare). "While residents are doing everything in their power to conserve water, we need more partners like Diageo to lend a helping hand as our communities struggle with the effects of extreme drought."

Some residents of Central California's Tulare County have not had running water in months because their wells have dried up, and they are wholly dependent on bottled water. A portion of the water from Diageo is being immediately deployed specifically to the East Porterville area of Tulare County, where officials learned yesterday that one particular well which serviced approximately 100 residents has completely dried up. With no rain in sight, and a drought that has already reached record-breaking levels, the local Office of Emergency Services is in place to provide water relief.

"Diageo has a long history of giving to communities suffering the effects of natural disasters, and frequently partners with government agencies to bring aid to the communities that need it most," said Stephenie Shah, senior director of government relations for Diageo North America. "The California drought has reached tangible and – in locations like Tulare – frightening proportions, and we are glad we were able to bring water to those in need. We hope that our donation helps inspire other companies to donate potable water to residents who are running out of options. This is a critical situation and it is incumbent upon the business community to help those in need."

This relief effort is part of Diageo's Spirit of the Americas Humanitarian Aid program. Established in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, the Spirit of the Americas program provides immediate relief and disaster aid in the U.S. and abroad. Diageo employees accompany relief supplies to each crisis zone and help distribute the aid, every step of the way. Relief efforts can include: water, medicine, food, clothing, generators, manpower, etc.

Since 2001, Diageo has provided assistance to more than a dozen states and nearly ten countries outside the U.S. Relief efforts include providing high-capacity generators and distributing almost 85,000 bottles of water after Super Storm Sandy; delivering 50,000 pounds of food and emergency supplies to Haiti-based NGOs after the earthquake and providing more than 150,000 pounds of food, medicine and school supplies to Baghdad.

Diageo's brands include Johnnie Walker, Crown Royal, J&B, Buchanan's, Windsor and Bushmills whiskies, Smirnoff vodka, Captain Morgan, Baileys, Don Julio, Tanqueray and Guinness.

New Bureau of Reclamation Report Predicts Climate Change Will Significantly Impact Central Valley this Century

A new report released last week by the Department of the Interior's Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor finds that projected changes in temperature and precipitation, combined with a growing population, will have significant impacts on water supplies, water quality, fish and wildlife habitats, ecosystems, hydropower, recreation and flood control, in California's Central Valley this century.

"These projections by Interior's Bureau of Reclamation show the importance of President Obama's Climate Action Plan to address challenges like those California's Central Valley will face to provide a sustainable water supply for its citizens and economy," Connor stated. "As President Obama will emphasize once again at the U.N. Summit this week, climate change is not a problem we can leave to future generations to solve. The challenges to our water supplies illustrated in this study provide graphic examples of how acting now is an economic imperative as well as an environmental necessity."

The Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins Climate Impact Assessment projects temperatures may increase as the distance grows from the Pacific Ocean. Although most of the Central Valley may warm by 1°C in the early 21st century, a 2°C increase is projected by mid-century. Precipitation patterns indicate that there is a clear north-to-south decreasing precipitation trend, compared to historical trends. In the northern parts of the Sacramento Valley, there may be an overall increase to average annual precipitation.

"This assessment is one of several that studies climate risks to water supplies and related resources in river basins in the western United States," said Connor. "Although it is quite sobering to see the projections, we will follow up these assessments by continuing our work with the State of California and interested stakeholders to implement climate adaptation strategies in the Bay-Delta and other regions of the state. I am confident this ongoing collaboration along with the Climate Action Plan and the state's water action plan will help ensure that California has the necessary water supply to meet its future needs."

The study presents an overview of the current climate and hydrology over the entire Central Valley including the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Tulare Lake basins. It also evaluates how projected climatic and hydrologic changes could impact water availability, management and demands while analyzing impacts of future urban growth and changes in land-use within the Central Valley.

Some findings of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Impact Assessment that show a potential for significant implications for water management, human infrastructure and ecosystems include the following:

Due to the warming conditions, the runoff will increase in winter and decrease in spring as more precipitation falls as rain instead of snow. Reservoirs may fill earlier and excess runoff would have to be released earlier to ensure proper flood protection is maintained. This may lead to reduced storage in reservoirs when the summer irrigation season begins.

Water demands are projected to increase. Urban water use is expected to increase due to population increases in the Central Valley while agricultural uses are projected to decrease because of a decline in irrigated acreage and to a lesser extent the effects of increasing carbon dioxide.

Water quality may decline by the end of the century. Sea levels are predicted to rise up to 1.6 meters in that time frame which will lead to an increase in salinity in the Delta and a decline of habitat for fish and wildlife.

River water temperatures may increase because cold water availability from reservoir storage would be reduced.

The food web in the Delta is projected to decline. Projected lower flows through the Delta and reduced cold water due to lower reservoir levels will make less water available for species, including endangered species such as migrating salmon.

Hydropower generation is projected to decline in Central Valley Project facilities due to decreased reservoir storage. However, net power usage is also expected to decline due to reductions in pumping water and conveyance.

The climate projections utilized the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 3, CMIP3, climate projections with demographic and land use estimates based on the California Department of Water Resources Water Plan 2009. This study supports the broader Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins Study, part of the Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Program. The basin study, which is expected to be completed in 2015, will provide additional analysis including the evaluation of adaptation strategies to mitigate impacts of climate change and meet future water demands. It will also update the climate projections using the recently-released Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5, CMIP5, climate projections and land use – demographic projections based on the recent California State Water Plan 2013 update, which were not available when the analysis was completed for this impact assessment.

"This study confirms that the current status quo for water supply in California is not sustainable," Connor said. "Reclamation and its partners in California are already developing solutions to meet the projected imbalances between future supply and demand within the Central Valley."

"The Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins Study will provide a roadmap forward for Reclamation and the State of California to ensure a sustainable water supply well into the future," said Acting Reclamation Commissioner Lowell Pimley.

The WaterSMART Program focuses on improving water conservation, sustainability and helping water resource managers make sound decisions about water use. It identifies strategies to ensure that this and future generations will have sufficient supplies of clean water for drinking, economic activities, recreation and ecosystem health. The program also identifies adaptive measures to address climate change and its impact on future water supply and demand.

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Candidate Gurrola Delivers in Visalia

Staff Reports

"Stop Supervisor's raises! Deliver the water!" Virginia Gurrola, candidate for the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, told supporters at a meet-and-greet event in Downtown Visalia last week. "My election is not about me. It's about you. It's about you finally having a voice on the board of supervisors."

Gurrola held her event at the Lunch Box in Downtown Visalia.

Gurrola is running to represent the 5th Supervisorial District, which covers southeast Tulare County including Porterville and surrounding communities. Gurrola told guests in attendance that her election is important to her district, where there is currently a major water crisis, as well as to all of Tulare County. She was happy to be in Visalia to extend that message and reach out for help.

The event was hosted by Tulare County Fair Board President Greg Gomez and fellow Fair Board Member Grace Calderon at the Lunch Box restaurant in Downtown Visalia. Gomez is also the vice mayor of Farmersville. Among Gurrola's supporters were former supervisor Lali Moheno, as well as other candidates and officials.

At the candidates' forum on September 16th at the Visalia Convention Center, Gurrola was asked about the Tulare County Board of Supervisors' plan to possibly ban medical marijuana. She believes that those with medical marijuana permits should be able to grow a limited number of plants at their residence or have access to at least one medical marijuana dispensary. Concerning the county suing SEIU over the recent contract negotiations, she didn't agree with taxpayers' money going to sue their own employees. Gurrola also didn't think that the county had a very strong case.

Virginia Gurrola

Supervisor Mike Ennis, the incumbent representing the 5th Supervisorial District, was not present to answer questions.

Elderwood

Continued from p. 1

involved to be brought back to the planning commission for recommendation."

Supervisor Ishida seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Before the vote, Ishida explained why the property was zoned residential, an action taken about 40 years ago. "The prevailing thinking of planning was to move the population to the least productive land, such as the foothills. Citrus wasn't doing financially well in the early '70s. I believe that's why there wasn't a lot of push (against the idea) from citrus growers.

"Once it's zoned, we're held to a different standard," he added. "We have to look at the law."

Elderwood Heights is a proposed development that would be built northwest of the City of Woodlake on land that is currently being farmed. The current plan calls for 225 acres to divided into 162 single-family residential lots, ranging in size from 22,500 sq. ft. to 98,650 sq. ft.

The planning commission had recommended that supervisors deny the project because, among their other reasons, they found the property "physically unsuited for rural development," and that it did not "conform to smart growth and healthy communities principles."

At previous meetings, neighborhood residents expressed concerns about noise, traffic, water, waste and other issues. Several of them also addressed the board before this vote, calling for the board to adopt the planning commission's recommendation to deny the proposal. Developer David Roberts of R-7 Enterprises then presented a petition with signatures from 468 project supporters.

Shani Jenkins, attorney for the developers, took the podium to present a list of concessions that R-7 Enterprises was willing to make, such as performing an environmental impact report, reducing the visual impact of the development, using only "colors of low reflectivity" and limiting the amount of turf used. "We've probably agreed to 80% of what (development opponents) want," she said.

Craig Breon, the attorney for Citizens Against Elderwood Heights Subdivision, followed by saying that he was "hopeful that R-7 could bridge more of these gaps." While the board was in closed session to consider their decision, Breon told the Voice that he hopes that the area residents can "come to some agreement" with the developers. Even so, he was not happy about the board's decision.

"We would rather have the decision of the planning commission upheld," he said after the vote. He called the interpretation of the Fifth Amendment used in the supervisors' decision "radical," adding that the amendment was intended to provide a balance between private and public interests. "Even a judge like (Supreme Court Justice Antonin) Scalia would not agree," he said.

Following the meeting, Roberts called the decision "a partial victory" because the board upheld his private property rights. "That's what my family bought and paid for."

Roberts was asked why he didn't submit an environmental impact report with the proposal, an omission that became a point of contention for development opponents.

"The county never asked for one," he said.

Visalia Police Department Wins Prestigious California Law Enforcement Award

Staff Reports

The Visalia Police Department has been named the winner of the California Law Enforcement Challenge Award, which is sponsored by the California Highway Patrol in partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety and the California Office of Alcohol Beverage Control.

The California Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between similar sized and types of law enforcement agencies. This award recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in California. The areas of concentration include efforts to train officers, enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving and speeding. Agencies submit an application that documents their efforts and effectiveness in these areas. The winning safety programs are those that combine officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction.

A panel of traffic safety experts reviews each application and assigns points based on the criteria. After the judging, the scores are averaged and a final score is assigned. After all of the applications are scored, the agencies are ranked in their categories. All judges are independent members of the law enforcement community, public safety and corporate partners who have demonstrated advanced knowledge of highway safety initiatives.

The California Law Enforcement Challenge program allows law enforcement agencies to set comprehensive goals, to strive to reach new heights in traffic safety, to share their experiences with others, and to be recognized for their traffic safety accomplishments.

Draft Matheny Tract Transportation Plan Available for Public Review

Staff Reports

The draft of the Matheny Transportation Infrastructure Plan is now available for public review and comment through October 24. The plan is online at www.tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/whats-going-on/matheny-tract-transportation-infrastructure-plan/.

Printed copies will be available for review at the Tulare Public Library, 475 N. M St., Tulare; Palo Verde Elementary School, 9637 Ave. 196; Tulare County Resource Management Agency, 5961 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia; and City of Tulare, 411 E. Kern.

Omni-Means developed the plan under contract with the Tulare County Resource Management Agency as an essential first step in working to secure grant funding to make improvements in the small, unincorporated community.

The plan identifies critical needs, including sidewalks that are either in need of repair or non-existent. The estimated cost for constructing sidewalks is $3.7 million. New storm drain and roadway construction is also a high priority, according to residents. During a series of public meetings, residents also identified specific locations for new streetlights, to be funded through a Community Benefits Agreement with Colony Energy.

The plan reports that the identified improvements would cost over $14 million, if all were to be completed.

"The infrastructure needs are great and the cost is high, but the key is to have a plan in hand with specific project descriptions, scope of work and cost estimates that will help with grant applications," said Gary Mills of Omni-Means.

For information on the Matheny Tract Transportation Infrastructure Plan, contact Mills at 734-5895 or gmills@omnimeans.com.

Kaweah Delta Announces Symposium Speaker

Staff Reports

Kaweah Delta Health Care District and members of its medical staff will present physician, historian and prize-winning author Victoria Sweet on Thursday, October 16, at the 2014 Norman Sharrer Symposium at the Visalia Fox Theatre.

Dr. Sweet, author of *God's Hotel: a Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine*, will discuss critical conversations between patients and their medical providers in today's healthcare system in a session titled, "Slow Medicine and the Efficiency of Inefficiency." The symposium will begin at 6:30pm and is free to the public.

"(Dr. Sweet's) patients' lives teach us about the challenges of successful caring and healing," wrote the continuing medical education committee of Kaweah Delta Medical Center in announcing this year's speaker. "(She) is a keen observer of the legal, political and economic forces that have taken medicine away from its roots and turned it into a complexity that we now call healthcare. She hopes to teach us how the efficiencies and other benefits of slow medicine happen whenever doctors and nurses can take enough time to care for their patients, not just about them."

Dr. Victoria Sweet

Kaweah Delta has hosted the annual Norman Sharrer Symposium for the last 33 years. Each year, a health theme is chosen to interest the community, beyond the confines of just physicians/clinicians in Tulare and Kings Counties.

The event is named after Dr. Norman Sharrer, M.D., who was director of medical education at Kaweah Delta Hospital and associate clinical professor of medicine at the University of California School of Medicine, and a former practicing physician in Exeter prior to his death in August 1980 at the age of 57. He is remembered for his many giving traits, always being ready to help anyone who had a personal crisis, and as an inspiring teacher.

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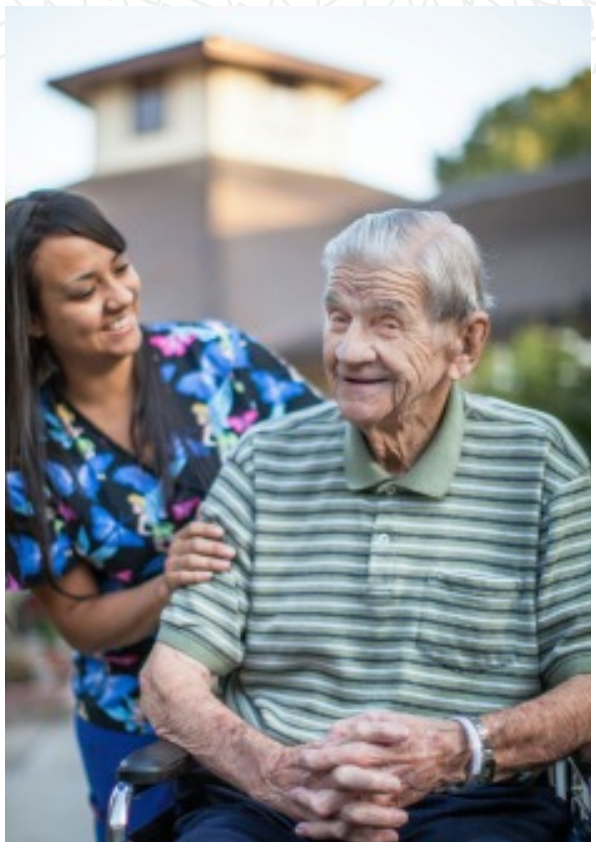

Tech Talk

Connecting Goodwill to The GRID

Tim Saar

In May of this year--in what may prove to be a national trend--Goodwill Industries opened their first in a number of considered concept stores: an experiential electronic store in Charlotte, N.C., called The GRID, carrying a huge variety of electronic and video game goods at 15 to 65% of retail prices – freeing 200 million pounds of electronics waste from landfills in the process.

The one-of-a-kind store sells a variety of new, refurbished and donated electronics, including desktop and laptop computers, printers, flat screen televisions, audio components, Raspberry Pi, portable chargers, and phone and tablet accessories, according to their website.

The GRID also boasts an impressive array of retro games, gaming consoles and controllers, including rarities such as a boxed ColecoVision, Retro Trio, RetroN 5, Famicom, NE3, and even the coveted yellow cartridge Legend of Zelda.

"It's a completely new and cool concept!" said Melinda Wilshire at Goodwill Industries. "When you walk into The GRID, it looks nothing like the typical Goodwill. We have gaming stations available for customers to try out new and used games. We have a great lounge area where we offer Wi-Fi access, so that we can encourage customers to come in and bring their laptops and their gaming systems, and really experience the store."

Wilshire stressed the importance of the customer's experience when they enter The GRID, and how different it is from what is typically at other Goodwill retail stores. Their customers include students and families looking for retro games, as well as teachers from the nearby university looking for discounted electronics for their students.

"Our location is right near UNC Charlotte (University of North Carolina Charlotte)," Wilshire said, "so we do certainly want to encourage students and families to come and experience this store, try out the products, and really have a fun experience when they come to The GRID."

As part of Goodwill's stated mission, Changing Lives Though the Power of Work, The GRID employs technologically knowledgeable people, providing training to disadvantaged job seekers in the area. In addition, 90 cents of every dollar spent at The GRID goes directly to funding Goodwill's mission, said Wilshire, distinguishing them from similar retailers such as GameStop and Best Buy.

Store Manager Rivera Spears is a self-titled gamer, and takes great pride in The GRID, which she has helped build since its inception.

"The reward is being able to come to a place that I really enjoy," said Rivera. "Being surrounded by these sweet games, and seeing people come enjoy the stuff that I've grown fond of myself is very fun."

The GRID has already gained significant media attention in its short time since opening. A post on the popular community website Reddit generated more publicity than The GRID could handle, shutting down their web system temporarily due to the monstrously increased traffic.

"We've been absolutely thrilled by the national attention that it's garnered," said Wilshire. "We've certainly been fielding requests, not only from universities, but from other cities to have a GRID-type store available in their location."

While there are no definite plans for new locations, Wilshire hopes that some of the 165 different independent Goodwill organizations in the U.S. can "see the benefit of it," and that they would want to work with them to launch something similar in their areas.

Learn more about The GRID: Powered by Goodwill at www.goodwillsp.org/shop/thegrid

Jake Raper to Retire after Six Years with RMA

After six years with the Resource Management Agency (RMA), Jake Raper will be retiring. He started in 2008 as the assistant director of the RMA and was promoted to director in 2009. He was not only complimented for his work ethic but for his camaraderie. The Tulare County Supervisors expressed that they will not only miss him around the office but the cookies he brought every Tuesday and left in the break room.

Raper is credited with making the RMA a friendlier place for the public to do business and a friendlier place for business in general. It only takes three months to get a special use permit now, whereas it used to take years. A regular permit only takes three weeks. Raper was thanked for changing the culture at the RMA to a place where people can come realize their dreams.

Supervisor Steve Worthley said that if someone wants to build something new, start a new business or create a new business, Tulare County makes the permitting process possible. Raper said that the RMA had come a long way since 2008 but "there is a lot more to be done." He expressed his confidence in Mike Spata, his heir apparent, in being able to finish what he had started.

Tulare County Job Fair Attracts 'More Professional' Jobseekers

Steve Pastis

Tulare County jobseekers are becoming more professional and focused, and possibly younger, according to the differing opinions of the company representatives who interacted with them at the 23rd Annual Tulare County Job Fair, hosted by Tulare County Employment Connection at the Visalia Convention Center on September 24.

"They're more professional than in previous years, in the way they dress, and they are more courteous and there is more eye contact," said Randy Hendrix, program director of Momentum Broadcasting.

"They are better dressed," agreed Anna Lopez, purchasing manager for VWR International.

"You see a lot more professional people and they're willing to try anything," said Ana Fett, regional sales associate with Resource Employment Solutions.

There wasn't much agreement on whether there were more jobseekers in attendance than in recent years, however.

"There were certainly more people (this year), both older and younger," said Gracie Robles, human resources manager at Family HealthCare Network, who said that there have been good prospects among those visiting the FHCN booth. "We've seen a lot of medical assistants and a lot of these individuals are recent grads from local vocational schools."

Patricia Villegas, director of admissions for Milan Institute of Cosmetology, said this year was "a little bit slower."

"It seems a little slower," said Leisa Clemente, staffing and recruitment specialist for Personnel Solutions Limited. "Last year, we would have lines that would go back pretty far."

Sheri O'Hara, human resources manager at the Visalia Marriott, said attendance "was about the same."

"So far at this time, we have more than last year," said Jarrod McClintick, chair of the job fair committee. "They are pretty diverse. It's a good mix.

"There are definitely more employers," he added. "We're seeing a lot more expansion in manufacturing, the food industry and healthcare. There are over 500 job opportunities represented here today."

"There are less people," said Michelle Mendoza, corporate human resources manager for California Dairies. "It seems that the job market has a lot less people. They are older. They've been at their jobs for a long time and they're losing those jobs."

Mendoza also noted what she called a "skills gap," with companies unable to find qualified employers for specialized positions such as maintenance mechanics.

"We're always looking for great people," said Michele Borrayo, area leader for El Pollo Loco, adding that there was a local need for managers. She said that half of those submitting resumes were qualified for restaurant positions and the other half was "interested in just getting a paycheck and not caring for what we're trying to do."

Although most of those in attendance were looking for immediate openings, the schools participating in the show were busy attracting new students.

"We do well in both academic and career technical education," said Greg MacDonald, school counselor for Tulare Adult School. "We have waiting lists for both." Even with waiting lists, the school sees value in the local job fair. "We want to participate and get the word out that Tulare does have an adult school."

Representatives from China Peak had a booth to help them in their efforts to hire about 300 people for seasonal jobs. Most of those workers will likely relocate there for the winter, according to Sherry Nolen, group coordinator. "We get a lot of summer firefighters," she said.

"We're finding that the workforce is more fresh out of school or transitioning from one industry to another," said someone in the food industry who, after supplying the best quotes of the day, said she couldn't be quoted in a newspaper. "There are more people giving us their resume and asking, 'What have you got?' There are probably 10% who are qualified for specific jobs, and 20% may meet some requirements but not all. The rest are just hoping for the best."

Randy Daughtry, Leisa Clemente and Sara Rhoades of Personnel Solutions Unlimited greet a jobseeker at the Tulare County Job Fair.

Carrie Groover, general manager of the Visalia Marriott, said she would like to see two county job fairs a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. "It's better than putting an ad in the paper and hoping people will see it," she explained. "We've hired at least one person from every job fair we're ever done here."

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County Sues

Continued from p. 1

this right with the employees," stated Phil Cox, chairman of the BOS. "Their bad behavior caused each employee they represent to suffer financially. The board wants to see that the employees are made whole."

PERB will send a letter giving SEIU 30 days to respond to the county's filing. After SEIU responds, PERB will begin investigating the charges. It is unknown how long the process of investigation may take.

As part of this complaint, the county is seeking several remedies for the union's conduct. In particular, the county is requesting that SEIU be required to pay union-represented employees the lost salary they would have received this year without SEIU's conduct.

The SEIU negotiation team met October 1 to draft a formal statement about the suit. The statement was not ready to be released at press time. Tulare County employees were ready to talk, though. Lena Case, a negotiator for Bargaining Unit 2, said, "The county is guilty of many of the charges they are filing against SEIU."

Case also said that it seemed that the board had already made up their minds before hearing the employees side of the story. "They knew how they were going to vote before hearing any public comment. It's like they didn't want to hear anything else because they already knew what they were going to do."

SEIU has voiced their disappointment in the BOS decision to recommend filing what they consider frivolous charges. An SEIU representative expressed dismay that the county would spend $40,000 to sue their own employees rather than helping out the 1,000-plus residents of East Porterville who lack water due to the drought. The representative also pointed out that the BOS has refused to give Bargaining Unit 2, currently in negotiations, a raise while giving themselves yet another raise.

An email from a Tulare County employee who preferred not to be named said, "Honestly, it makes me sick to my stomach to that they gave an elected official a raise knowing the whole time they were generating an automatic raise for themselves. Their rationale for giving that elected official a raise was to bring his salary in line with elected officials in similar positions as his throughout the State of California. As usual they are obsessed with increasing executive salaries, including their own, but will not make that same effort towards thousands of rank-and-file."

Case echoed the same feeling, saying that most rank-and-file employees' salaries are lower here than the rest of the Valley, which explains the high turnover rate. She said that someone gave her a job announcement for an entry level janitor position working for the City of Tulare that paid more than her level three custodial supervisor job with the county.

The lack of parity with other Valley counties makes the employees resentful when Tulare County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau scowls while lamenting the employees' lack of gratitude. The rank-and-file understand that the BOS brought the county out of the Great Recession, but they feel that the burden should have been equally distributed between the management, employees and BOS, instead of predominantly on their backs.

Rousseau has stated on more than one occasion, when asked about his large compensation package, that he has it because he is blessed. "I believe he really believes this. Let's assume he does. This thinking and rationale borders on being delusional," said an employee on the negotiating team. A running question among the team has been if Rousseau is blessed because of his $200,000+ salary including benefits, what does that make the typical county employee making $30,000?

Greg Gomez, Tulare County Fair Board president and vice mayor of Farmersville, said, "I feel that this is just a tactic by the board of supervisors to try and discredit and shame its employees rather than dealing with the situation of low wages and their disproportionate health care which rewards upper management with more take-home pay. The board not only is going after its employees but they rewarded themselves with a 1.5% raise for it. The electorate in this county is being played."

Another employee stated, "My feeling and/or opinion is that they are using their political power to induce fear and intimidation to the rank-and-file. I pray that many more constituents of Tulare County will begin to request, demand accountability. The potential for this to happen is certainly there. "

Linda Castillo, employee negotiator said, "If the BOS continues its self-serving ways and attempts to silence our members by intimidation and to be dismissive of their front-line workers' concerns, then these actions will only serve to silence our members and the public opinion into rallying behind our cause even if in silence. This is a wakeup call for change and diversity on the board of supervisors! "

Kermit Wullschleger, employee negotiator, went to the Lunch Box in Visalia two Sundays ago to hear Virginia Gurrola, running for district 5 against Supervisor Mike Ennis, speak. "She sounded very confident. She sounds determined to turn things around on this BOS once elected. It could happen. When she wins, it would be the best (political) occurrence to happen in Tulare County in a long time."

Members of the community gathered on September 23 at 3704 S. Mooney Blvd. in Visalia to celebrate the grand opening of the city's first El Pollo Loco location. The festivities included remarks by elected officials, including Visalia Vice Mayor Warren Gubler (pictured fourth from left), community dignitaries and El Pollo Loco Director of Operations David Aguilera (fifth from right), followed by kitchen tours and a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The restaurant officially opened its doors on August 1.

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Visalia Ranks Sixth on *Forbes* 'Least Educated Cities' List

Steve Pastis

Forbes Magazine just published a list of the least educated cities in the U.S. and Visalia placed sixth.

According to the WalletHub survey it cited, of the 150 largest metropolitan areas in the country, the Visalia area (which includes Tulare and Porterville) ranked 148th in percentage of high school diploma holders, 148th in percentage of college-experienced adults or associate degree holders, 149th in percentage of graduate or professional degree holders, and dead last in percentage of bachelor's degree holders.

"It's not news to folks who live in the Central Valley," said College of the Sequoias Superintendent/President Stan Carrizosa. "The Central Valley as a region has been educationally underdeveloped when you compare it to more urban areas like L.A., San Diego and San Francisco.

"I think it's like any other study or research," he added. "It's a representation of some results based on the criteria they were applying."

Among the criteria was the low number of technology jobs in the area. The survey ranked Visalia last in workers with computer, engineering and science jobs.

"We're an ag-based area so there are limits on the level of technology-based employment," said Carrizosa, adding that agriculture creates "a demand for a fairly large workforce. Although there is some automation, we haven't replaced human hands in picking and packing."

"I'd love to attract businesses that provide jobs in those (technological) areas," said Craig Wheaton, Visalia Unified School District superintendent. "We would attract our own children back, those who go to college and don't come back and raise our educational level."

"The report accurately reports the American Community Survey education data for adults 25 and older that details the low levels of education attainment for adults within Tulare County," said Adam Peck, executive director of the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board. "I think it's important to provide some context to that data. Tulare County schools actually graduate students from high school at a rate higher than the State of California as a whole.

"So how then can the educational attainment rate for the county be so low?" Peck continued. "The answer is in the large part of our community that reside here as adults even though they never attended the schools in our community. This migrant workforce has very low levels of educational attainment and severely impacts the data reports like this rely upon in creating these lists."

Peck also noted that American Community Survey data shows that the unemployment rate for college graduates in Tulare County at 2.4% was less than half of the rate for California as a whole at 5.5%.

Carrizosa said that educational surveys need to "have an understanding of the dynamics" of the area. "Surveys like this one oversimplify things and unfairly characterize us on a national level. People see the California cities and draw an unfair conclusion. It didn't really give enough context for why things are the way they are."

One of the reasons things may be the way they are is the lack of a public four-year university in Tulare County. This area may be the largest in the country without such a university.

"Anywhere you locate a four-year university, you elevate the educational pool of the area," said Carrizosa.

"One of the hardest things for our students is that they think the highest level they can reach is College of the Sequoias," said Wheaton. "It's a good steppingstone, but it's difficult when you compete with other communities that have University of Michigan or MIT or Fresno State, and they have the opportunity to see that on a regular basis and as a way of life. We don't have that college tradition and experience. They have to go away and it's so hard to make that initial leap and be successful. When I read about the opportunities that our students have, we're disadvantaged when you compare it to communities across the nation."

Wheaton also questioned the fairness of the survey.

"I don't believe the way it's reported is fair to our city or our school system," he said, adding that the survey "infers our education system is failing. What I'm afraid of is that people misinterpret the data and decide we have the worst school district. We stack up as about average in the state."

He added, however, the survey also "tells us what we already know. We have a very challenging community. We have agriculture, not science or engineering. As a result of our economic base, we have people here who are less educated.

"When I read this, it just strikes me that our school district is so important to our community," said Wheaton. "From the lowest educated families, we're providing an education so they can go out and compete."

NEXT DEADLINE: 9 October 2014

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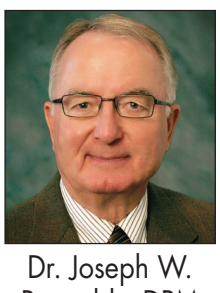
Dr. Joseph W. Reynolds, DPM

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Briefly...

November General Election Deadlines Announced

Tulare County Registrar of Voters Rita A. Woodard reminds all Tulare County residents that the upcoming General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4.

The last day to register to vote in this election is Monday, October 20. Voter registration cards are available at locations throughout Tulare County. To obtain a mail-in registration card, call 624-7300 or 1-800-345-VOTE, a free hotline. If you prefer, you can register online at www.sos.ca.gov.

Vote by Mail ballots will be available beginning Monday, October 6.

Tuesday, October 28, is the last day the Registrar of Voters Office may receive Vote by Mail ballot requests through the mail or by phone. Otherwise, after October 28, voters may come to the Elections Office located at Government Plaza, 5951 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, to request a Vote by Mail ballot in person.

Any Tulare County resident who will be sworn in as a United States Citizen by a federal judge after Monday, October 20, but no later than Tuesday, October 28, may register and vote at the Tulare County Registrar of Voters Office. They will be required to show their Naturalization Certificate at the time they register.

College of Sequoias Board Trustee Candidates Invited to Public Forum

The College of Sequoias Adjunct Faculty Association has invited candidates for Ward 1 of the COS Board of Trustees on the November 4 ballot to a public forum, 7-8:30pm on October 7 at Brandman University, 649 S. County Center Dr., Visalia.

Stephen Tootle, history instructor at College of Sequoias, will moderate the forum. Topics expected to be covered are the recent accreditation issues, funding challenges and the expansion of COS to Hanford and Tulare.

The College of Sequoias Adjunct Faculty Association is the union representing 309 part-time contingent faculty. COSAFA is not making an endorsement in this campaign.

For details, contact Don Nikkel at 827-3032 or donaldn@cos.edu.

Dollar General Continues Tulare County Expansion

A Dollar General store is expected to open in Strathmore "around the end of the year," according to Tulare County Economic Development Manager Michael Washam. Permits have been approved for a new 9,100-square-foot facility on the south side of Avenue 196.

Dollar General, which describes itself as "the country's largest small-box retailer," with more than 11,000 stores in 40 states, offers shoppers frequently used items, such as packaged foods, snacks, pet supplies, health and beauty aids, cleaning supplies, paper products, basic apparel, housewares and seasonal items.

Dollar General has also selected a store location on the north side of Highway 190 in Poplar-Cotton Center. Washam added that permits have also been approved for a new AutoZone in Orosi, which could open by the end of the year.

Achieving the Dream Selects Porterville College for Working Families Strategy

Achieving the Dream has announced the national community college expansion of the Working Families Success Network (WFSN) strategy. Porterville College is one of 16 community colleges in four states that will implement the strategy — used at over 100 sites in the nation to help low-income individuals and families achieve financial stability — to promote postsecondary completion for students whose economic challenges can thwart their academic and career goals.

"Porterville College is honored to have been selected as one of four community colleges in California to participate in the Working Families Success Network," said Porterville College President Dr. Rosa Flores-Carlson. "Porterville College will work alongside our community partners to help low-income individuals and families to achieve financial stability and to continue to promote postsecondary completion for students who aren't earning enough income to attend college."

Kings Fairgrounds Welcomes New Race Track Promoter

The Kings County Fairgrounds' leadership has partnered with Kings Racing Association, LLC, to promote local racing events throughout the year. Business partners, Bubby Morse and Ron Vander Weerd, the pair behind Kings Racing Association, look forward to a successful 2015 racing season.

Between Vander Weerd's business background and Morse's promoting experience, the two are expected to establish a strong partnership with the Kings Fairgrounds.

"My twin sons, Richard and Jace, have been racing non-wing cars for many years at Kings and look forward to many more," said Vander Weerd. "Many local businesses have dedicated their support and all racers love this track. We're all committed and anxious to get started."

FHCN Accepting Nominations for Community Service Award

Family HealthCare Network is seeking nominees for its 2014 Anita de la Vega Community Service Award, which was established in memory of Anita de la Vega, who served as a clinician and advocate of the patients served by Family HealthCare Network for 30 years.

The award was established to recognize individuals in the community who have demonstrated a commitment to serving underserved communities in Tulare County. Previous recipients of the award include Carolyn Rose, Graciela Martinez and Isabel Olmos.

The deadline for applications is at 5pm on Friday, October 24. To obtain applications, contact Marya Vela at 737-4710, mvela@fhcn.org or visit www.fhcn.org to download the application.

League of Women Voters Offers Groups Ballot Measure Presentation

The League of Women Voters of Tulare County is offering a 20-30 minute program on the pros and cons of the ballot measures in the November 4 General Election.

Besides the candidates, voters will also decide on six state propositions. Two of the propositions are legislative, three are initiatives and one is a referendum on an existing law. The league, which is dedicated to informing voters and encouraging active participation in government, offers a non-partisan explanation with supporting and opposing arguments.

To book a program during the month of October, contact Faye Zeeb at rzeeb@comcast.net.

Chamber Announces 2015 'Heritage of America" Trip

The Visalia Chamber of Commerce announced a new trip in its 2015 lineup of tours, Heritage of America, a ten-day trip June 19-28, which includes 14 meals, first class accommodations and a professional tour guide. Travelers will explore America's heritage, history and scenic horizons on this in-depth tour of the eastern United States.

The tour begins in New York City with stops in Greenwich Village, the Wall Street district, Chelsea Market and other time-honored landmarks. Philadelphia highlights include a tour of the "Birthplace of a New Nation," which visits to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. Other stops include Wheatland, the Federalist home of James Buchanan, and discovering the history of the Amish in Lancaster; Shenandoah Valley; Charlottesville; and Williamsburg. The last two days of this tour are spent in Washington, D.C. with stops at Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, the Capitol Building, the White House, the many memorials on the Mall and a tour of Arlington National Cemetery.

For more information on the chamber's travel program, call Nicola Wissler at 734-5876, or visit www.visaliachamber.org and click on the travel link for details itineraries and pricing information.

Visalia Rawhide's Breland Almadova Wins Gold Glove Award

After winning the North Division Championship this season, the Visalia Rawhide received a further honor on Monday, as outfielder Breland Almadova was named a recipient of the Rawlings Gold Glove Award.

Gold Glove Awards are given annually to the top-rated defender at each position for all of Minor League Baseball. With six levels and over 200 teams in the Minor Leagues, this honor is highly prestigious and difficult to win. By claiming the title – and the golden trophy that will accompany it – Almadova has been effectively named the top defensive center fielder in the Minor Leagues for 2014.

Visalia's 2015 season begins on Thursday, April 9. To stay current on all Rawhide off-season ballpark events and news, visit RawhideBaseball.com.

Family Health Care Network Announces New Hires

Family HealthCare Network has hired Karthik Raghuraman, DDS, MPH as the organization's newest interim dental director, overseeing FHCN's dental program for Tulare and Kings Counties. Dr. Raghuraman practiced as a dentist with FHCN for nearly 10 years serving in various capacities including supervising dentist in Porterville and clinical director-dental in Goshen.

Family HealthCare Network also announced the addition of Internal Medicine Hospitalists Pallavkumar Patel, MD and Thi Thi Aye, MD to its health care team in Visalia.

Bureau of Reclamation Awards $1.39 Million Contract to Hanford Firm

The Bureau of Reclamation has awarded a contract for $1.39 million to Red One — AAK JV, LLC, for replacement of the headwalls along the Main Outlet Drain Extension, located at the Fortuna Wash Siphon in Yuma, Arizona. The contractor will have primary responsibility for bypassing the saline return irrigation drainage around the construction, demolishing the existing headwalls, and installing new headwalls at the project site.

Red One is a small business, service-disabled veteran contractor located in Hanford.

Business Gallery

Evans Miller Guinn
Exeter Chapel
425 North Kaweah Avenue
Exeter, CA 93221
FD-1058
559-592-5161
Fax 559-592-2071
John and Diane Guinn

Pocket Watch Repair
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Visalia, California 93277
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Wells

Continued from p. 1

misfired and the pumps stopped barely 48 hours later. Rob Morton owns the first house in a line of four that would benefit from filling the recharge trench. But it took more than two weeks before CEMEX could get organized to fill the trench across from his house. Since that time, his well has gone from 16 feet to 11.5 feet, and his family can now take showers and do the dishes.

But by September 26, CEMEX was having more undisclosed problems and the trench across from Morton's house went dry. His well has held steady at 11.5 feet, but his neighbors wells remained dry. Finally, on Monday, September 29--nearly a month after CEMEX was supposed to fill the trench--all four homes had running water. If CEMEX can manage to keep their pumps running, the residents' water problems are solved--for now.

A mile away as a crow flies are two mines at the Lemon Cove Facility. The mines have ceased activity, and in violation of their permit, CEMEX shut the pumps off that filled their recharge trench. Farmers' and residents' wells next to the mine have dropped so low they never know from one day to the next if they will have water. As you read this article, CEMEX' Lemon Cove Facility mining pits are brimming full of water, evaporating into the air, while farmers struggle to keep their citrus from dying. One resident hypothesized that Stillwell was getting all of the attention because of its impact on residents. The wells next to the Lemon Cove Facility that are going dry are predominantly for farming.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors are very vocal about the loss of agriculture land to development, so it is puzzling why they allow a multi-national from Mexico to disrupt our farming industry.

"Stillwell is a huge black eye for CEMEX"

As one farmer put it, "CEMEX has blatantly violated so many of the conditions of their permit and the county has yet to force them to comply." Another resident lamented, "You'd think that the board of supervisors would be more concerned about what is going on with the gravel mines and not just ignore what is happening since they are the ones who approved the permit. If you are running an organization like the county, you should know what is going on. They should be proactive in protecting their constituents instead of just reacting to criticism."

The following are some of the conditions with which CEMEX does not comply.

Condition number 55 says that the recharge trenches shall contain a sufficient amount of water to maintain water levels in neighboring wells. It does not matter if the mine is in production. It is up to CEMEX to fill the trench, and it is up to the county to make sure that they do. As one local resident said "They (the county) are the ones to give the permit. We didn't, they did. CEMEX had no right to shut off the pumps to the recharge trenches and the county needs to take responsibility."

Condition number 48 says that CEMEX is to make available to the RMA data containing the amounts of water delivered to the recharge trench. When the RMA received data saying that no water was being delivered to the recharge trench, it was they who should have sounded the alarm. The recharge trenches are fenced off and inaccessible, so it should not have been left up to the residents to come to the RMA, and then complain at the Tulare County Board of Supervisor's meetings, before something got done.

> *"You'd think that the board of supervisors would be more concerned about what is going on with the gravel mines and not just ignore what is happening since they are the ones who approved the permit. If you are running an organization like the county, you should know what is going on. They should be proactive in protecting their constituents instead of just reacting to criticism."*
>
> — a local farmer

Condition number 77 says that after a year of non-activity their operation will be deemed idle. "Within 90 days of the surface mine becoming idle, the operator shall either file an Interim Management Plan, or shall commence reclamation in accordance with the approved reclamation plan."

The Notice of Preparation report for McKay Point Reservoir implies that mining stopped at Stillwell in May of 2013. Tom Cairns noticed that the last truckload of gravel taken over to the Lemon Cove facility was almost 80% fines and only 20% usable gravel. He was not sure of the date but that it was spring of last year. That would make the mine idle for 17 months, well beyond the time CEMEX is supposed to start reclamation. Reclamation is estimated to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The county is the lead agency for the Stillwell Project and CEMEX is the operator. For the McKay Point Reservoir, Tulare Irrigation District (TID) is the lead agency but CEMEX is the also operator.

CEMEX does not need this black eye right now as the McKay Point Reservoir Project goes into its EIR stage of approval. And TID doesn't need the headache. TID has put a huge amount of time, money and resources to make McKay Point Reservoir an asset to the community and an asset for future generations. TID has been accountable and completely transparent. CEMEX hides. They don't return phone calls. They forbid anyone from entering their property, and shroud all activities and decisions in mystery. If CEMEX is not going to comply with their permit, and continues to deny all accountability, then the RMA needs to revoke their permit. CEMEX is not only endangering their current mines but may be the reason McKay Point Reservoir might not be built.

As it stands now, the residents neighboring Stillwell mine have water and the farmers next to the Lemon Cove facility have little. What we do know for sure is that we don't know why CEMEX decided to turn the pumps on at Stillwell. Were they being neighborly, as they like to call themselves? Did they realize people were going to figure out they have been idle for 17 months and they did not want to pay for the reclamation? Is it what Pete Lo Castro, CEMEX manager, said--that they were going to resume mining, even though there wasn't a lot of cobble there in the first place? Is it that they figured out people are watching and they better get their act together or the McKay Project will never be approved?

Viewpoint

End the Outing

Laura Finley

I am going to start this with a simple statement: No one should have the right to out another person, celebrity or other, as gay.

It seems very clear to me that the decision to come out should rest entirely with the individual. While it would be fantastic to live in a world in which no one cared about the pronouncement that someone is not strictly heterosexual because we were all so accepting of the many ways to love others, that world is not yet here. Coming out can be a very emotionally challenging process. Sometimes, it can even be physically dangerous. Studies continue to show that youth who come out, or even those perceived to be gay or transgender, suffer tremendous harassment in schools, in their communities, and often in their own families. In earlier decades, gay and lesbian celebrities lived in fear that their careers would be destroyed if they were outed in sources like Confidential magazine. When older people come out, they face unique challenges, such as marriages, in-laws and children, to whom acceptance may be far from secure. Thus just because the celebrities being outed are adults does not soften the blow when someone makes accusations, correct or not, about their sexual orientation.

Last week, actor and dancer Julian Hough, who is currently a judge on "Dancing with the Stars," while engaged in a conversation with "Extra" host Mario Lopez, saw fit to proclaim DWTS contestant and former "All My Children" star Jonathon Bennett to be gay. She claimed that he had made flirty comments but that she did not reciprocate because he is gay. Hough made it sound like it was public knowledge, but Bennett has never officially commented on his orientation. Blogger Perez Hilton has made a name for himself by outing celebrities, all the while claiming his invasions as "civic duty" and that he is "making the world a better place." Brian Molan of Hollywood.com has even argued that not reporting on the private lives of allegedly gay celebrities is discriminatory, as the media would never ignore the private lives of heterosexual celebrities. As if the media's ability to probe the most precious and intimate things about someone is some kind of birthright.

Comedian Margaret Cho has made the point that gay celebrities need to come out of the closet, as doing so will help gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) youth feel safe. I agree, but outing them only tells youth that it is still someone else's right to "proclaim" your sexual orientation. It's not like anyone spends any time "outing" heterosexual celebrities or politicians. Thus, when we allow people to out others with no repercussion, we are reinforcing the heterosexist norm that being gay is something odd, different or salacious that requires identification.

While we continue to work toward that world in which we truly love and accept the full rainbow that is humanity, I say to the media: Stay out of the outing business.

Laura Finley, Ph.D., teaches in the Barry University Department of Sociology & Criminology and is syndicated by PeaceVoice.

Nonviolent Men: The New Silent Majority

Rob Okun

"Women want a men's movement. We are literally dying for it."
—Gloria Steinem

It's way past time to put on the pads, guys. We've got to put our shoulders to the wheel of change if we're going to stop domestic and sexual violence. Are you ready to suit up for the big game? Except, of course, it ain't no game; the lives of our daughters and sisters, wives and mothers are on the line.

No need to recount the abominable behavior of any particular football player here, (especially since their numbers are growing daily). And, it's not necessary to replay all the fumbles by the National Football League commissioner or team owners who are only consistent about one thing: putting profits ahead of the safety of your wife and my daughters.

Revelations of men abusing women aren't news—sadly, they're everyday occurrences. Why does it take abusive celebrities or pro athletes beating their wives or fiancés to grab our attention?

Since the vast majority of men don't act violently toward those they love, why have we men become a new, deafeningly silent majority? Many of us are not even bystanders; we're AWOL. Many of us don't know men who speak out against the minority of men who abuse. That's got to change.

The good news is that for nearly two generations a growing number of men of all races and ethnicities in the U.S. and around the world have followed the lead of women working to prevent domestic and sexual violence, and to redefine and transform traditional ideas about manhood, fatherhood and brotherhood. We've been called all kinds of names, but many of us describe ourselves as members of the profeminist or anti-sexist men's movement.

Profeminist men hold the simple "radical" belief that gender and sexual equality are fundamental democratic goals and that women and men should each have the same rights and opportunities. Although marginalized and largely absent from the national conversation about gender in the mainstream media, modern-day profeminist men have been engaged in a sweeping critique of manhood and masculinity since the 1970s.

Even as media messages lag far behind on-the-ground truth, a progressive transformation of men's lives is under way. Men's involvement in anti-sexist activism grew out of a sense of justness and fairness heightened by men's involvement in the civil rights and antiwar movements of the 1960s. For many, those feelings easily carried over to women's call for liberation, itself nothing less than a social justice imperative of obvious historical importance. (Acknowledging gay rights would come later.)

Despite the modest number of men involved, chinks in the armor of conventional manhood are visible, and, as our numbers grow, the chinks grow larger, threatening to crack open. Since the late 1970s, besides activities in the U.S. and Canada, profeminist men's work is underway in Great Britain, Scandinavia, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico and Central America. In more recent years, India and Nepal have joined the growing list, as have a number of African nations. The roots of profeminist men's work are deep.

In 2009, nearly 500 men and women allies from 80 countries met for four days in Rio de Janeiro at a symposium, "Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality." The growing global movement, united under an alliance called MenEngage, now operates on every continent. In November, a second global symposium is being held in New Delhi. It is expected to attract more men from more countries.

In the struggle to replace conventional expressions of manhood with a profeminist vision, there's a simultaneous cultural truth at play as we fishtail along the slippery road of gender justice. On the one hand are pro football players and other high value male celebrities still attracting followers despite the disdain with which their tone-deaf excuses are received by an outraged citizenry. On the other are men, say, like Jason Collins, the National Basketball Association player who announced he was gay in 2013, opening the door for the NFL's Michael Sam. These real "man's man" sports figures stand in stark contrast to domestic abusers. Their willingness to take the national stage helped unlock the door for younger males—gay young men, of course, but many, many others—hungry for a way out of the "man box" that seeks to constrain boys and men.

Football players aren't born to beat their wives or children. No men are. But until and unless we replace the fist and the switch with patience and a hug as tools to raise our sons and grandsons, domestic violence in our homes and sexual assaults on campuses (and elsewhere) will be men's legacy. Brothers, it's the fourth quarter, the clock is ticking, and there are no more time outs. What are we waiting for?

Rob Okun is author of Voice Male: The Untold Story of the Profeminist Men's Movement. Syndicated by PeaceVoice, he is editor of Voice Male *magazine (www.voicemalemagazine.org).*

Scotland's Vote and the Future of Civil Society

Mel Gurtov

Scotland's vote for independence fell well short of victory. But pro-independence Scots will surely try again, just as the Quebec Sovereignty Movement has stayed optimistic over many years in its fight for independence. From a practical point of view, perhaps the Scots are better off staying in the United Kingdom. Independence would have raised difficult challenges concerning foreign and defense affairs, oil and the environment, among many others. Yet as we look around the world, we find that governments have become increasingly unable to placate widespread anger and demands for change. The sovereignty and decentralization envisioned by Scotland and Quebec is not just appealing, but a rational response of civil society to ineffective, unresponsive leaders.

What might have been the implications beyond Scotland if it had gained independence? Would the success have inspired others, much like the rapid diffusion of the Arab Spring? Would Scottish independence have prompted a similar movement in Wales? Might Catholics in Northern Ireland have raised demands for union with Ireland? What about Catalonia? Kurdistan? Tibet? Chechnya?

Secessions of parts of a state to form a new one generally are not well received by other countries. An independent Scotland—not to mention an independent Quebec, Kurdistan or Tibet—does not have support from the U.S. or any other major country, so far as I'm aware. Eastern Ukraine's breakaway only has Russia's support. The general assumption among policy makers is that backing another country's breakup might come back to haunt their country.

Of course there are exceptions. The breakup of the USSR and the split of Sudan into North and South did not seem to arouse much disapproval. But the international approach to Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan is more typical: for all the ethnic, religious and political forces within those countries that are pulling them apart, and that might make the case for division into new countries, no one seems in favor. We might reasonably assume that governments are not concerned with the blowback of supporting secession more than they are with the empowerment of civil society.

We are on the threshold of a new era, the likes of which we haven't seen since decolonization in Africa and Asia after World War II, in which attempts at breakaways will be more common. Popular dissatisfaction with government is rampant around the world, regardless of the political system. Demand (for services, satisfaction of grievances, regulations or deregulation) greatly exceeds what large centralized governments can supply. And the opportunities for people to display, communicate and organize their dissatisfactions are also far greater than ever before. Many groups will demand not just greater local autonomy but the right to fully govern themselves.

This possibility should not be surprising. Americans, Chinese, Russians, French, Iraqis and many others are fast reaching the point where it is apparent that units of governing have become too large to accommodate the scope of the demands placed upon their national leaders. It's no longer just a matter of ethnic or religious differences. Climate change and other large-scale environmental problems, rapidly growing rich-poor divides, unemployment, cross-border immigration, migrant workers, tainted food and water deficits, unmanageable public health crises—all these are creating serious protests that challenge the managerial abilities of governments. Central governing units need to be smaller if they are to be responsive, accountable and effective in the public interest.

"We are living in an era of unprecedented level of crises," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said as a new General Assembly session opened in New York. For how long can these crises be contained or ignored? Will they be handled nonviolently? I'm old enough that it's possible I won't be around when these questions are answered. When they are, I can only hope the Scottish option is accepted as a reasonable alternative to terrible destructiveness. My grandchildren may one day be living in a country called Cascadia (the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. and Canada), and that increasingly sounds like a good idea.

Mel Gurtov, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Portland State University and blogs at In the Human Interest.

Columns & Letters

Keep up Your Good Work in Saving Our Water!

Steve Nelsen

In April, the Visalia City Council adopted Stage 4 water restrictions in response to the most significant drought in generations, faced not only our city, but the entire state. And, you have made a difference! Since the Stage 4 water restrictions took effect April 17, Visalians have conserved an average of 12% from April through August, compared with last year. This is a savings of 683,636,200 gallons or 2,098 acre-feet of water

Conscientious citizens have done their part since the Stage 4 watering restrictions took effect, and we ask for your continued efforts to continue to reduce landscape irrigation, responsible for 60 percent of total water usage in the city. Residents and businesses are urged to check their irrigation systems and timers to make sure they are properly set and do not have any leaks. Adjust any misaligned sprinklers to prevent runoff.

Visalians have continued to reduce the amount of water they use indoors, saving 18% over last year in August alone. Take steps today to reduce your water usage both indoors and out.

The Stage 4 Fall/Winter watering schedule began October 1st, which should result in significantly more conservation. There are two watering days during October: Tuesday and Saturday for odd addresses and Wednesday and Sunday for even addresses. During November and December, there is one watering day: Saturday for odd addresses and Sunday for even addresses. There is no watering during January and February. The watering times remain the same throughout the year: water before 10am or after 8pm on your designated water day.

There is an exception to the schedule for hand-watering shrubs, trees or vegetables. These can be watered any time with a watering can or with a hose with a positive shut-off nozzle. The hose cannot be left unattended and watering of lawns outside of the watering schedule is prohibited. Washing down sidewalks, driveways, etc., is also not allowed.

The city has launched a citywide outreach campaign for the fall/winter watering schedule. Look for messages on your Cal Water and city utility bills, on local cable channels and on city transit. Need help? Go to www.GoGreenVisalia.com or call the city Natural Resource Conservation Division at 713-4531.

Your continued cooperation and support is greatly appreciated as we work together to make it through this historic drought. Together, we can all do our part to Conserve Our Way Of Life. Save Our Water – Every Drop Counts.

Steve Nelsen is Mayor of the City of Visalia.

Tulare County Farm Bureau Supports the Water Bond

California's voters will have a historic opportunity this November to make an important commitment to everyone's future food, job and economic security by voting yes on the bond initiative now known as Proposition 1 – the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (the water bond). This will be a critical measure to create broad bipartisan support amongst California's voters this November. Tulare County Farm Bureau's board of directors at its September 11 meeting voted to officially support the bond.

The bond with its $7.5 billion price tag provides long overdue funding to build critical infrastructure, storage and conveyance projects for increased water storage and movement of water around the state. The state's rural communities and urban areas all desperately need more water and more access to storage to manage the arid climactic conditions in California that often lead to extended periods of drought and scarce rainfall.

The bond provides a comprehensive state water plan that includes funds for safe drinking water for all communities, expands water storage with $2.7 billion of continuously appropriated funding, and ensures that water conservation, recycling and reuse programs are expanded substantially in the years ahead.

Tulare County Farm Bureau has some concern that the Central Valley's critical needs may not be fully addressed in the bond, but it is encouraged by the competitive bidding process that will allow key storage projects like Sites Reservoir and Temperance Flat to be ranked high priority in the review process. East to west connectivity issues still need to be resolved in the nuances of the funding plans, but it is important to acknowledge that with a legislature as divided as the one in California – this bond is a meaningful and real step towards addressing the antiquated water infrastructure throughout California.

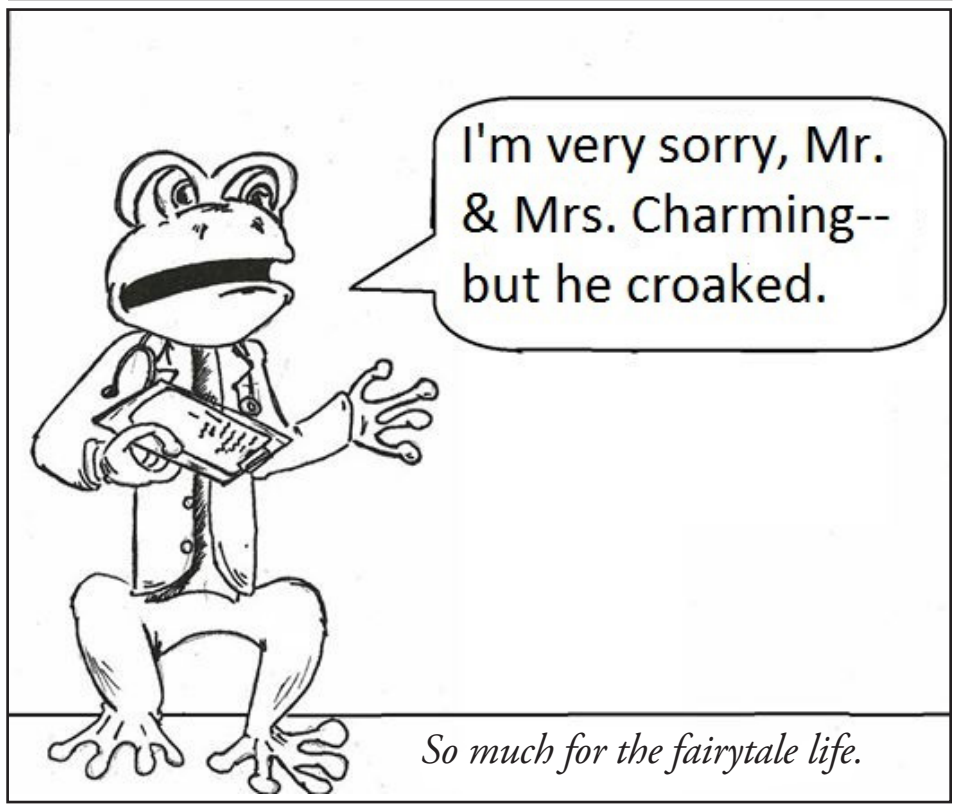
The bond provides safeguards to our existing water supplies and creates many benefits to the environment while also protecting communities big and small, agricultural lands, and the people of California. In this third year of harsh drought conditions, we must set aside our regional differences and political ideologies and get down to the common sense reality that California has not made meaningful investments in water storage and infrastructure for decades and now is the time to do so with the passage of Proposition 1.

TCFB President Joey Airoso added, "We cannot feed the world and our own nation without water to grow crops, raise livestock, and produce more than 250 different food and fiber products for our world's consumers. Tulare County just experienced the thrill of being ranked the #1 agricultural producing county in the 2013 crop reports; but it is a short lived victory that we cannot share with our neighbors who have watched their acreage and yields decimated by drought related water shortages. We have to all fight for California's water needs, and know that passing this bond has benefits for our urban and rural communities alike."

Tulare County is the largest dairy producing county in the nation and ranks first in California for gross farm receipts as of the 2013 Crop Report. The Tulare County Farm Bureau represents more than 2,200 family farmers in the county and is dedicated to promoting and enhancing the viability of Tulare County agriculture.

Black Tie

Alex Oldenbourg



Veteran's Corner

Military and Veterans Coalition Meeting

Joe Wright

The next Kings County Military and Veterans Coalition meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 14, at 2pm at the Kings County Government Center, 1400 West Lacey Blvd, in Hanford. The meeting is held in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Administration Building.

With approximately 12,000 veterans and several thousand active duty personnel, Kings County has a significant population that is interested in and affected by issues concerning our military community and veterans in general. Veterans Service Organizations, NAS Lemoore, service providers and anyone else interested in military and veterans issues in Kings County are encouraged to attend this meeting.

If you are looking for services or possibly a new career, this meeting is a great place to start some networking. We'll discuss several issues including veteran's legislation. We'll also have the VA Healthcare Enrollment Specialist from the VA Hospital in Fresno as our guest speaker. He'll give a brief presentation on VA Healthcare eligibility and be able to answer any questions you may have. He will also be able to enroll folks into VA Healthcare while he is here. If you have questions about the coalition, please contact Joe Wright as noted below. Please mark your calendar and attend this meeting!

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran ID cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230; call 852-2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.

Online Comments

Comment at ourvalleyvoice.com or fb.me/ourvalleyvoice

> "Where are the refunds promised to the Vendors? I was told twice over a week that my refund was in the works…7 days…the event was cancelled the night before the event on Sept 12th. I hope I wasn't dammed. Who were the promoters? Joe Chris and Jason ? If you know how to reach these persons, please let me know."

— Joe Ozier on UPDATE: Buzz Con Cancelled

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McKay Point

Continued from p. 1

permit, then their ability to store and better manage water by access to this storage facility will be compromised."

TID hired Provost and Pritchard to do the EIR on McKay Point. One local wondered how the company can remain unbiased. "Their main clients are irrigation companies." After having experienced CEMEX' hiring of a consulting firm willing to say whatever the multi-national wanted, this is not an unfounded worry. But Provost and Pritchard is respected by stakeholders on all sides of the issue and they are not going to jeopardize their reputation to placate an irrigation company. CEMEX' EIRs were probably "just good enough to slip by the supervisors wanting to be business-friendly, whereas Provost and Pritchard will write an honest EIR," said Clausen.

Concerns that Remain

If McKay Point Reservoir is approved, Clausen has two major concerns. One of his concerns is the slurry wall that will go down into the aquifer between 60 and 90 feet. A slurry wall will surround the reservoir and restrict groundwater flow from entering through seepage. The wall would serve to keep the excavation in near dry condition and would also keep the reservoir empty so it would be ready for use during a flood or a spring flood release from the dam when farmers have the least need for water.

The flow of ground water is from northeast to southwest. When the slurry wall from the reservoir is connected with the silted-over ponds at the Lemon Cove facility, the aquifer between the hill bordering Dry Creek and Wutchumna Hill will be completely blocked. The aquifer feeding into Clausen's wells won't be affected because his farm is above the project, but anyone living west of McKay Reservoir could see their well water level drop or go dry for part of the year. There are about 30 or 40 residential and farming wells west of this area that are adjacent to the St. John's River. They will have water in their wells when the river is running, but that only happens half the year. The underground aquifer runs all year and has the potential of being blocked by the existing mines and slurry wall.

The Lemon Cove Sanitation District well sits just above Mckay Point, .8 miles from the reservoir. This large well provides all of the water for the residents of Lemon Cove.

> *"Stillwell is a real black eye for the proposed reservoir. If CEMEX can't get a little project like Stillwell right, how are we supposed to trust them with McKay Point Reservoir?"*
>
> — a local resident

During a Scope Meeting put on by TID earlier this year, Del Strange, of Valley Citizens for Water, also commented on the slurry wall. He said that the slurry wall will be dead center in the throat of the Kaweah Basin. "The water that is coming underground from the dam is narrowly throated through a shallow part of the area. Bedrock is about 60' depth, but it does not span the full width through the two mountains. Through glacial action, the area is a shallow rounded channel. The site is like putting a solid brick in the hourglass and cuts off the Kaweah Basin."

Clausen's second concern is evaporation. With the many open pits full of water, Clausen is concerned about the cumulative effects of evaporation. "Drive up Dry Creek and there is pond after pond left over by the Artesia Mine. Stillwell alone has 1,000 acre-feet of water in it. You are not going to find one hydrologist that says open pits are good for the aquifer. The water is better off flowing in the creeks or left underground." The problem with evaporation from mining pits that fill with water has been pointed out to the Tulare County Supervisors since 1970, with little or no response.

During the public hearing in October of 2002 for the Stillwell Project, Dan Dooley, a lawyer speaking on behalf of the Kaweah Delta Conservation District (KDWCD) and St. John's River Association (SJRA) stated that, "the Kaweah River Basin is in critical overdraft and the evaporative losses of up to 400 acre-feet a year from the proposed reclamation lakes needs to be mitigated. Dennis Keller, a civil engineer, also speaking on behalf of KDWCD and SJRA, said that, "the expense to the district to replace lost evaporative water would be high and a burden to the District."

The Environmental Impact Report written in 2002 for Stillwell mine declared that there would be no significant evaporation from the ponds, thus no mitigation was required.

The flood control aspect of McKay Point Reservoir is lauded by all, but when put in historical perspective, seems like a drop in the bucket. During a hundred-year flood event, like the one in 1955, Terminus Dam, which did not exist at the time, would have been overflowing within 23 hours. Tom Cairns, spokesperson for many Lemon Cove residents, said that a friend was drilling a well, and after going down about a hundred feet hit old redwoods. That means that in Tulare County's ancient history, redwoods were rushing down the Kaweah River from the Sequoia National Park during a major flood. During the flooding that occurred in 2002, McKay Point Reservoir could have prevented a lot of headaches and would have been a welcome asset to the community, but it's not going to be relevant in a major event.

According to Richard Garcia, representing the local Sierra Club, flood control is good for the environment. McKay Point Reservoir would prevent the natural waterways from flooding and hold the water back until needed. Garcia's concern is that all the stored water will be used for irrigation. "We are a delta where the rivers fan out into creeks such as the Elk Bayou, Mill Creek and Cross Creek. I would like to see a balance between recharging the creeks and the water going down the irrigation canals," he said. Garcia did concede that all the water behind the dam is owned by the irrigation districts and that's the water that will be filling McKay Reservoir.

Garcia pointed out that the Sierra Club has not taken a position on McKay Point Reservoir and that the local chapter supports additional water storage.

The locals, whose ability to farm has declined and whose homes have become unlivable because of gravel mining, want there to be a comprehensive study on the Kaweah River Basin before any more mining permits are approved. What has happened up until now is a piecemeal process, approving mine by mine. This process cannot gauge the cumulative effects of hundreds of acres of alluvial mining on the town of Lemon Cove, the environment, and Tulare County's underground aquifer. But for now, the locals are taking a wait-and-see attitude, waiting to see what Provost and Pritchard has to say in their EIR report.

There is no specific date for the completion of the EIR, but TID is hoping for it before the end of the year. "Our analysis may take longer and/or the review may take longer." said Fukuda.

VALLEY VOICE
Valley Scene

Taste the Arts to Celebrate County's Artistic Diversity

Christina Thorin

Taste the Arts, the area's biggest annual celebration of the artistic diversity and cultural heritage of Tulare County, returns to Downtown Visalia on Saturday, October 11, beginning at 11am, with a free, all day festival of artists and performers stretching from Garden Street on Main, north to School Street, and into the old Lumber Yard.

The festival, now in its fifth year, is the signature event of the Arts Consortium, and this year promises more artists, more performers, and more variety than ever, including a free performance of a local theatre production and Taste the Arts After Dark.

Over 70 visual artists from throughout the county, representing a wide variety of genres, will show and sell their work. Artists will be onsite from 11am to 5pm to share their techniques and inspiration and, of course, to sell you a unique piece of art.

Provost and Pritchard, on the east side of Garden Street, opens at noon with an indoor exhibit of the Visalia Visual Chronicle, a curated collection of art by selected local artists. At the north end of the street, Arts Visalia at 214 E. Oak, hosts Taking Art to the Streets, an exhibit of Urban Art. Across the street at the Lumberyard, workshops on urban art and printmaking are free and open to the public.

Step around the corner to 303 N. Garden for a peek at a working art studio and demonstrations, and a special exhibit of work by Pro-Youth/HEART students, which includes a hands-on activity area for youth.

In addition, COS Printworks will be at the Lumber Yard demonstrating their process and selling customized printed items. A special exhibit of work by Pro Youth HEART students includes a hands-on activity area for youth.

"Fun with Food Sculpture" in the Lumber Yard will encourage children and adults to fire up their imaginations and create art using produce provided by the Farmers' Market.

Urban art fills the Lumber Yard from 11am to 10pm. In addition to the Garden Street artists, over 35 urban artists from around the region will exhibit in the Lumber Yard, with several demonstrating their techniques. The Step Up Urban Challenge will take place from noon to 4pm with selected artists competing in creating aerosol art themed to the Step Up message. Free workshops offer opportunity to try a new art form or sharpen your skills in the following areas: Spray 101 at 1pm, Stencil Art at 2pm, and Mural Painting at 3pm.

Local artist Marn Reich (at right) showcases her work at last year's Taste the Arts.

Musicians and dance groups kick off at 10:30am in the Plaza and 11am at the Lumber Yard with the first of over 20 live performances. The Lumber Yard stage will host larger groups, including Japanese Taiko, fire dancers, large vocal groups, a brass ensemble and several local dance groups. Garden Street Plaza will feature vocalists, bands and musicians ranging from bluegrass, indie/Americana, Irish folk, zydeco, blues and rock.

A special, free performance of "The Secret Garden" is offered at 4pm in the Main Street Theatre on Garden Street Plaza.

TASTE THE ARTS continued on **23 »**

Tulare County Symphony to Perform Music by Gershwin, Bernstein

Donna Orozco

Exciting music by two of America's most beloved composers will be performed by the Tulare County Symphony for their first classics concert of the season, Saturday, Oct. 18 at 7:30pm at the Visalia Fox Theatre.

The program will feature Gershwin's "An American in Paris" and Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from "West Side Story."

George Gershwin had already written "Rhapsody in Blue" and a Broadway show (which included the tune "Fascinating Rhythm") when he returned to Paris in 1928, hoping to study with well known musicians. But the musicians turned him down, afraid rigorous classical study would ruin his jazz-influenced style.

"An American in Paris" evokes the sights and energy of the French capital in the 1920s. Gershwin even brought back some Parisian taxi horns for the New York premiere, which took place on Dec. 13, 1928 in Carnegie Hall.

In 1951, MGM released the musical "An American in Paris," featuring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. It won the 1951 Best Picture Oscar and numerous other awards.

Leonard Bernstein began batting around ideas for a musical retelling of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" in 1949, but the show didn't premiere until 1957. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance scenes and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theatre. Music included "Something's Coming," "Maria," "America," "Somewhere," "Tonight," "Jet Song," "I Feel Pretty," "A Boy Like That," "One Hand, One Heart," "Gee, Officer Krupke" and "Cool." It was nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Musical in 1957.

Four years later, Bernstein revisited his score and extracted nine sections to assemble into what he called the Symphonic Dances. He asked two master orchestrators, Irwin Kostal and Sid Ramin, to do the job of converting music composed for a pit-sized band to music designed for a huge symphony orchestra.

"Both Gershwin and Bernstein grew up influenced by jazz and really all types of American popular music," said symphony music director Bruce Kiesling. "Jazz was really catching on, but other types of popular music were influencing these composers. Broadway songs, Vaudeville and Tin Pan Alley were all the rage – the latter especially for Gershwin as a young man. Bernstein loved Gershwin's music and recorded all of it, even conducting and playing the piano in 'Rhapsody in Blue' throughout his life."

Tickets ($30 to $39.50) are available

SYMPHONY continued on **23 »**

Exeter's Fall Festival Continues 101 Years of Tradition

Staff Reports

"Once Upon a Future," the 2014 Exeter Fall Festival, will continue many popular traditions from the past 101 years – games, contests, arts and crafts, food and entertainment.

Run4Cover will perform at the Exeter Fall Festival.

This year's Exeter Fall Festival highlights include: October 1-31 - Exeter Scarecrow Contest. The Exeter Chamber of Commerce has announced that "Scarecrows are returning to Exeter" and will be on display at participating businesses all month.

Monday, October 6, at 6pm - Miss Exeter Coronation & Dinner at the Faith Tabernacle Family Center. Miss Exeter is a personal development and scholarship program open to high school juniors and seniors. Candidates are judged on community and school service, academics, poise and personality, and the sale of raffle tickets as a fundraiser. The candidates will answer impromptu questions and model in a fashion

FALL FESTIVAL continued on **23 »**

Culture 5 Announces Inaugural Arts and Music Festival at Rawhide Stadium

Culture 5, a collective of artists, musicians and business owners, announced that Nick Waterhouse will headline the inaugural Tastemaker Music & Art Festival on October 18 at Rawhide Stadium in Visalia. Also performing will be Valley artists Strange Vine, Mezcal, Taco Wagon and Califas.

Event organizers say the Tastemakers Festival is a celebration of the rapidly growing creative community in the Visalia area and an effort to further brand the Valley as the newest musical and cultural hub in California.

"I've been involved in many festivals over the years, but collaborating with this new team on the Tastemakers event has been the most exciting," said Aaron Gomes, executive director at Sound N Vision and a member of Culture 5. "The idea of getting *THE* Nick Waterhouse to play in Visalia's best outdoor fest venue blows my mind. With such a solid lineup of bands, art, craft beer and unique food options, Tastemakers will be Visalia's premier annual festival."

Gomes, who has been booking and

TASTEMAKER continued on **19 »**

Taste of Downtown Visalia Set for October 7

The longest running annual food tasting event in the Central Valley, the 21st Annual Taste of Downtown Visalia, will be held from 5-9pm on Tuesday, October 7. Downtown Visalia's eclectic family of restaurants will open their doors and offer a taste of their new menu items or fan favorites.

A ticket allows guests to sample from 31 participating restaurants, as well as entrance to wine tasting at Bank of the Sierra and beer tasting at Suncrest Bank. The night of strolling with friends, enjoying culinary surprises and live music, includes hopping on the Visalia Towne Trolley for a lift to the next restaurant.

Tickets are $40 each and can be purchased at the Downtown Visalia Alliance office at 119 S. Church St., Visalia; online with PayPal or credit card; or by phone with credit card by calling 732-7737.

For more information, visit www.DowntownVisalia.com

Visalia Roundup to Feature Cowboy Music, Poetry and Food

The Cowboy Cultural Committee will present its Annual Fall Roundup, featuring cowboy poetry and music by Riders in the Sky, Chris Isaacs and Kristyn Harris, at Clarence Ritchie's Barn, 16338 Ave, 308, Visalia, October 10-12.

Riders in the Sky

The Cowboy Cultural Committee was the brainchild of Lani Hernandez of Visalia, and each year the event seems to grow a bit larger. From three or four Dutch ovens, the event has grown to 40 iron pots spread out on the iron tables used to cook on. The weekend will end on Sunday morning with Cowboy Church outside under the big oak tree.

For tickets or more information, visit www.visaliacowboys.com.

Karl Marlantes to Speak on the Experience of War

Author Karl Marlantes will be at the Visalia Veterans Memorial Building at 10:30am on Thursday, October 9, to discuss his book *What it is Like to Go to War* and to answer questions. Marlantes is a Vietnam veteran, a Rhodes Scholar and the author of the New York Times best-selling novel *Matterhorn*.

Karl Marlantes

What it is Like to Go to War has received much reader and critical acclaim since its publication in 2011, and has frequently been cited by veterans as the work that best expresses their experience. The book has been selected by Cal Humanities as the community read for its "War Comes Home" initiative. Focusing on the veteran experience, this initiative aims to increase public understanding and empathy for those who have served, as well as to spark a public conversation on how to best support the process of reincorporating veterans into the fabric of civilian life.

The Tulare County Library has organized several programs and events in conjunction with this statewide initiative. For more information, visit tclwarcomeshome.blogspot.com or call Carol Beers at 713-2700.

Kings County Farm Bureau to Host Annual Gala on October 17

The Kings County Farm Bureau's Annual Gala will be held on Friday, October 17, at the Olympic Room at the Kings County Fairgrounds. The festivities will begin at 6pm with hors d'oeuvres and hosted wine and beverages, followed by a sit-down dinner catered by Elaine's Table at 7pm. Tickets are $100 per person and can be purchased from any KCFB board member or from the office, located at 870 Greenfield Ave. in Hanford, or online at www.kcfb.org/gala.

The evening is an opportunity for KCFB to thank its members and supporters and showcase the agricultural industry. This year's "country chic" theme will include entertainment from local band Mehrten Drive.

"The Annual Gala is always a great time for our members to come together to celebrate another successful year supporting Kings County agriculture," said Carolina Evangelo, event co-chairman. "This year, we are making some changes to the event to make it even more enjoyable."

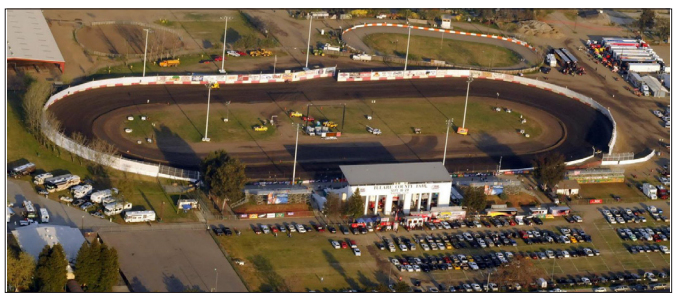
During the evening, a silent and live auction, featuring items such as one-of-a-kind jewelry, and a gourmet dinner will be held to raise funds for Kings County agricultural education programs and scholarships.

Table sponsorships are still available, and silent auction donations are being accepted as well. For more information, call the KCFB at 584-3557.

Busy Month of Racing in Tulare Begins on October 4

Gary Thomas

One of the busiest months of racing in recent memory at the Merle Stone Chevrolet Thunderbowl Raceway kicks off with the second annual Harry Talbot Memorial, featuring Winged 360 Sprint Cars, on Saturday, October 4.



Merle Stone Chevrolet Thunderbowl Raceway in Tulare. Photo courtesy Paul Trevino Racing Photos

The night of competition pays tribute to Harry Talbot, who was very instrumental at the Thunderbowl Raceway and who passed away last year after an illness.

On Saturday, October 11, the Thunderbowl will host the 29th annual Cotton Classic, showcasing the King of the West 410 Sprint Car Series and the USAC West Coast Wingless 360 Sprint Car Series. The prestigious event was moved to Tulare following the closing of Kings Speedway for the remainder of 2014.

The 21st annual Southwest Contractors Trophy Cup will take place on October 16-18. The event is quickly gaining the reputation of being the premier Sprint Car showcase on the West Coast.

The month of October closes out with another event that was moved from Kings Speedway, the annual Dirt Nationals on October 24-25. IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Sport Mods, Mini Stocks, Hobby Stocks and IMCA Stocks will be on the card, and large fields are expected over the double header weekend.

The Merle Stone Chevrolet Thunderbowl Raceway is located at the Tulare County Fairgrounds. For tickets, call 688-0909. For more information, visit www.thunderbowlraceway.com.

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Malo to Perform at 2nd Annual Menudo Festival on October 19

Legendary Latin band Malo will headline the 2nd Annual Menudo Festival at the Visalia Convention Center on Sunday, October 19.

Malo

Malo is celebrating over 40 years of performing worldwide and has shared the stage with celebrated groups such as the Rolling Stones and Queen. The band's 1972 hit single, "Suavecito," is described as the "ultimate Hispanic love song," and four decades later is still one of the most-played oldies on classic radio.

The event is sponsored by Budweiser and will be filled with traditional music and performances including mariachi, Latin rock and Ballet Folklórico dancers. Attendees will have various local restaurants and food vendors to select their choice of menudo and other Mexican dishes as they enjoy the entertainment. The event will run from 9am to 2pm with Malo performing at noon.

Pre-sale tickets are $10. Proceeds of the event will benefit TCLMAW fund raising efforts to provide scholarships to local high school students.

For more information on tickets or vendor information, visit www.nuestrotiempo.net or contact event chair Raymond Macareno at raymond@nuestrotiempo.net.

Tastemaker

Continued from p. 17

producing live music concerts in Visalia for more than a decade, says tapping Waterhouse as the event's headliner was a no-brainer.

"We chose L.A.'s Waterhouse to headline the festival because he is world-renowned for having an intense live show that is timeless," said Gomes. "He and his large live band embody the past, present and future of rock n' roll, R&B and soul music. In short, they know how to make the party dance and have a good time."

Nick Waterhouse

Waterhouse is currently on a 30-stop worldwide tour in support of his second full-length album, *Holly.* The Tastemakers festival will be the final show of his month-long tour. Waterhouse, a modern-day band leader, travels with an eight-piece arrangement that features two horns, percussion, keyboards, guitar, bass and backup vocals.

"The band just cooks," says Waterhouse. "They stretch it out and it's about maintaining the energy and upping it 15% from the records."

Strange Vine, a two-piece out of Fresno, are often compared to another two-piece rock band, The Black Keys. Strange Vine is a mix of blues, psychedelic and traditional rock 'n' roll.

Mezcal, Visalia's Latin groove band, has been tearing up stages in the Valley for more than a decade, and have taken the stage with the likes of Los Lobos, Malo, El Chicano, Tierra and Poncho Sanchez.

Taco Wagon is another Visalia favorite and a powerful two-piece band that produces traditional surf rock music.

Califas, is a Latin-infused party band from the Valley and will kick things off at the Tastemakers.

In addition to the live musical acts, The Tastemakers Art & Music Festival will feature culinary options plucked from the area along with local beer produced by Tioga-Sequoia Brewing Company in Fresno and live art demonstrations by local artists.

"We really wanted to focus on all the talent that we have here and make people pay attention," said Cecil Lopez, Culture 5 co-founder and creative director of the local design agency Third Level Group. "We knew if we were going to make this thing grow and get the attention we want, we had to go all in."

Tickets for the Tastemakers Art & Music Festival are $25 and are available in Visalia at Pita Kabob, The Cellar Door, Velouria Records and Rawhide Ballpark. Tickets can also be purchased online at TicketWeb.com.

Arts Visalia to Take Art to the Streets

Kevin Bowman

When one thinks of an art exhibit, one usually has an expectation of sterile gallery walls – an institutionalized, bureaucratized world where creative expression is reserved for the elite few, the indoctrinated professional artists.

With "Taking Art to the Streets," Arts Visalia looks to upset that notion a bit by involving the public directly in the production of the artworks in an exhibition. We are literally going to take the production of the artworks in the exhibition out into the streets so that members of the general public can take part in their creation.

The exhibition will grow and transform as the month goes by. Visitors at the beginning of the month will see an entirely different show when they return at the end of the month. New works will be added to the mix while other artworks will have new additions made to them during the show.

Stepping beyond the spectator-only format of art exhibits, members of the general public who attend the Taste the Arts Festival will be able to have a hand in creating the works of art on display by joining in on a series of participatory art-making activities on Saturday, October 11. Led by a talented team of professional artists and art students from local colleges and universities, attendees of the 2014 Taste the Arts Festival, will be able to take a crash course in a variety of traditional and non-traditional art techniques including block-printing, screen-printing, spray painting, stencil-painting and more. Participants will be able to create their own artworks or add to a series of large-scale collaborative works, all under the guidance of professional artists.

The exhibition will feature works of urban art, block printing and screen-printing by the artists of the Urbanist Collective, as well as faculty and students of the College of the Sequoias and the Fresno State University printmaking programs. Artists featured in the exhibition, and leading the public during the festival activities, include Erik Gonzalez and the artists of the Urbanist Collective, Orlycukui, Shortyfatz, DJ Agana, Reydiem, Matthew Hopson-Walker, Francisco Alonzo and Jessica Robles, as well as members of the COS Printworks Club and the Fresno State Print and Glory Club.

Taking Art to the Streets, the exhibition, will be on display at Arts Visalia October 3-31, with an opening reception from 6-8pm on Friday, October 3. Workshops and public art activities at the Taste the Arts Festival will be held from 11am to 6pm at the site of the former Keith Brown Lumber Company property on the corner of Garden and Oak Avenues. Admission to all events is free and open to the public.

Taking Art to the Streets is supported by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation, a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society.

For more information, call 739-0905 or visit www.artsvisalia.org.

Kevin Bowman is the director of Arts Visalia and an instructor of art at College of the Sequoias.

MUSIC

Oct. 4 – Silent Western Movie Night at Mavericks – 7pm
Pianist Dave Bourne will be featured. Tickets are $10. Seating is limited. For information, visit mavericksscoffeehouse.com.

Oct. 4 – Twin Shadow – 9:30pm
Twin Shadow with special guests will perform at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $15. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Oct. 5 – Operators – 7pm
Sound N Vision Foundation presents Operators, featuring Dan of Divine Fits, Handsome Furs and Wolf Parade, and Milo Bloom at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St. The show is open to all ages. Tickets are $10. For information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Oct. 8 – Dawes & Henry Wolfe – 9pm
Sound N Vision Foundation presents Dawes and Henry Wolfe at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St. Tickets for the 21+ show are $20. For information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Oct. 10 – Lip Sync Contest – 6pm
As part of Exeter's Fall Festival festivities, a lip sync contest will be held at Exeter City Park. For information, visit exeterchamber.com.

Oct. 10-12 – Cowboy Poetry & Music – 7pm
Cowboy Poetry & Music will be featured at Clarence Ritchie's Barn, 16338 Ave. 308, Visalia. Entertainers include Riders in the Sky, Chris Isaacs, Kristy Harris. Shows include dinner, peach cobbler and entertainment. For information, visit visaliacowboys.com/roundup.htm.

Oct. 10 – TUMBAO Band – 9:30pm
Sound N Vision Foundation presents TUMBAO Band at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St. Tickets for the 21+ show are $7. For information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Oct. 11 – Visalia Concerts in the Park – 4-7pm
Borrowed Time will perform at Burke Park as part of Visalia's Concert in the Park Series. The events are free. For information, call 713-4365.

Oct. 11 – Randy Sharp – 7:30pm
Country Music performer Randy Sharp will perform at the Lindsay Community Theater, 190 N Elmwood. Tickets, $20, are available at lindsaycommunitytheater.com or at the event until sold out.

Oct. 14 – Richard Smith – 6-9pm
Finger style guitarist Richard Smith will perform at 210 Cafe, 210 W. Center, Visalia. Tickets are $15 in advance, $18 at the door. For information, call 739-9010.

Oct. 15 – KJUG Free Summer Concert Series – 6pm
A beer garden and free summer concert features Cole Swindell at Hanford Civic Park. Bring blankets and lawn chairs as no seating is provided. For information, call 582-0483.

Oct. 16 – Annette Ash Band and the Muzikmeisters – 8pm
Annette Ash Band will perform at Crawdaddy's Visalia, 333 E. Main St.

Oct. 17 – Karaoke – 6:30-8:30pm
On the Third Friday of each month, Karaoke is featured at 210 Cafe. For information, call 739-9009.

Oct. 17 – Experience Hendrix 2014 Tour – 7:30pm
The music and legacy of Jimi Hendrix will be celebrated at Tachi Palace. Tickets, $25-$75, are available at tachipalace.com.

Oct. 17 – Britain's Finest – 9pm
Billed as "The Most Realistic Beatles Tribute Band in Existence!" Britain's Finest will perform at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St. Tickets for the 21+ show are $10. For information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Oct. 18 – Tastemakers Festival – 1-6pm
Culture 5 and Sound N Vision present the Tastemakers Festival featuring Nick Waterhouse at the Visalia Recreation Ballpark. Also performing will be Strange Vine, Mezcal and Taco Wagon. Tickets, $25, available at ticketweb.com.

Oct. 18 – Adrian – 7pm
Adrian "Buckaroogirl" Brannan will perform at Mavericks Coffee House, 238 E. Caldwell Ave., Visalia. Tickets are $25. Seating is limited. For information, visit mavericksscoffeehouse.com.

Oct. 18 – Philharmonic Dances - 7:30pm
Tulare County Symphony will open the season with the splashy and energetic rhythms of the "Symphonic Dances" from Bernstein's classic "West Side Story" in a pairing with Rachmaninoff's own "Symphonic Dances," his autobiographical tour de force. Tickets are $30 to $39.50 at the symphony office, 208 W. Main St., Suite D, Visalia, downstairs in Montgomery Square. Student prices are $10. Tickets are also available by calling 732-8600 or online at www.tularecountysymphony.com.

Oct. 19 – Chordsmen Quartet – 6pm
An evening of Southern Gospel music featuring the Chordsmen Quartet will be featured at First Baptist Church of Dinuba, 600 E. Nebraska Ave. The program is free. An offering will be taken for the ministry of the Chordsmen.

Oct. 19 – 2nd Annual Menudo Festival - 7:30pm
The legendary Latin band Malo will headline this event at the Visalia Convention Center. Malo is recognized for their Latin flavor and influence in music through the last four decades. For more information on tickets or vendor information, visit www.nuestrotiempo.net or contact event chair Raymond Macareno at raymond@nuestrotiempo.net

Oct. 23 – Evening of Worship with John Mark McMillan – 6pm
A Christian Music Concert will be held at Visalia Rescue Mission's Oval Park. For information, visit ovalpark.org.

EVENTS

Oct. 2-24 – Three Rivers Raven Festival
A month of activities is planned in Three Rivers to celebrate ravens including art shows, speakers, bike contests, writing contests, fun run and carnival. For information, visit facebook.com/threeriversarts.

Oct. 2 – Oktoberfest Live 2014 - 5:30-9:30pm
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce will present its Oktoberfest Live at Vossler Farms, 26773 S. Mooney Blvd. General admission is $40 at the door. For information call 734-5876.

Oct. 2 – Transportation Plan Community Workshop – 6-7:30pm
Tulare County Regional Transportation Plan will hold a community workshop at the Dinuba Community Services Center, 1390 E. Elizabeth Way. The TCAG will ask for feedback then vote on which scenario Tulare County should pursue.

Oct. 3 – Hands in the Community Celebration Dinner & Silent Auction
Hands in The Community will celebrate its service to Tulare and Kings Counties at the Visalia Convention Center. For information, visit hnconline.org.

Oct. 3 – Chip in for a Cause Golf Tournament – Noon
The Lemoore Senior Center will host its a golf tournament and dinner at Lemoore Municipal Golf Course. Proceeds go to the senior center. Cost is $60. For information, visit lemoore.com/parks.

Oct. 3 – Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm
Budweiser will present a free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia.

Oct. 3 – Happy Trails Riding Academy Round Up – 6-9pm
Happy Trails Riding Academy will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a Round Up dinner featuring BBQ, music, parade of horses and silent auction. Tickets are $30 or $240 per table. For information, call 688-8685.

Oct. 4 – Harvest 5K Run/Walk - 8am
Kaweah Delta Health Care District and Visalia Runners present The Harvest Run benefiting Sequoia Regional Cancer Center patients. Registration is $30. For information, visit visaliarunners.org.

Oct. 4 – Hats for Hope – 8am-2pm
Tucoemas FCU will host its 7th Annual Hats for Hope at 2300 W. Whitendale Ave. in Visalia. Proceeds and hats will be donated to The American Cancer Society. For information, call 737-5920.

Oct. 4 – Walk to End Alzheimer's – 9-11:30am
A 5K walk, entertainment, KidZone, Promise Garden Ceremony and Family Festival will be held at Mooney Grove Park. To register for the 5K, visit alz.org/social.

Oct. 4 – Farmersville Fall Festival - 9am-2pm
A car show, music, vendors, community booths, children's activities and more are featured. Family HealthCare Network will also offer a free Health & Safety Fair. A pancake breakfast kicks off the event at 7:30am to benefit Farmersville Youth Sports Programs. For information, call 731-9774.

Oct. 4 – 1st Saturday in Three Rivers – 9:30am-5pm
In celebration of the Raven Festival, first Saturday will feature special events focusing on the raven. A Raven Bike and Trike Contest will be held at 9:30am. Between 10am and 3pm, a Raven Land Lego Challenge and Raven Crafts will be featured at Three Rivers Library. At 11am, Sequoia Natural History Association Naturalist Mike Springer will speak at Three Rivers Library. For information, visit www.1stsaturdaytr.com.

Oct. 4 – Menudo and Pozole Cook Off – 11am-5pm
Lindsay Chamber of Commerce presents a cook off in downtown Lindsay featuring $500 cash prizes for best menudo and best pozole. Entertainment, a car show, vendors and games for children will be featured. For information, call 562-4929.

Oct. 4 – Hot Rods at the Shop: Part Two – 11am-5pm
A fundraiser for Lindsay Healthy Start and will feature custom car competitions, live bands and more in Downtown Lindsay. For information, visit 560-6213.

Oct. 4 – 3rd Annual Pink Tea Party – 1pm
The Kaweah Delta Breast Cancer Awareness Tea will be at the Visalia Convention Center. Tickets, $25, are available in advance only at www.kdtea.org or 624-2463. For information, call 624-2463.

Oct. 4 – Visalia Zombie Ball & Crawl – 7:30pm
The Central Valley Horror Club's annual event features entertainment by Stellar Corpses, Sidney Sin and Black Shaft, and Undead DJs, and vendors, Creepshow queen contests, costume contest and a zombification station. The event will be at Howie & Son's Pizza Parlor, 2430 S. Mooney Blvd. For information, visit facebook.com/centralvalleyhorrorclub.

Oct. 4 - 2nd Annual Harry Talbot Memorial
Winged 360 sprint cars compete at Thunderbowl Raceway at Tulare County Fairgrounds. For tickets, call 688-0909. For information, visit www.thunderbowlraceway.com.

Oct. 5 – Michael Jr. Bringing the Funny Tour
Award-winning standup comedian will perform at Visalia First Assembly, 3737 S. Akers. Tickets, $20, available by calling (800) 481-2761.

Oct. 7 – 21st Annual Taste of Downtown Visalia - 5-9pm
Downtown restaurants offer a taste of their favorite menu items. Tickets, $40, available at Downtown Visalia office, 119 S. Church. For information e-mail info@downtownvisalia.com.

Oct. 7 – Candidate Forum – 7-8:30pm

EVENT CALENDAR

The College of Sequoias Adjunct Faculty Association will hold a forum of candidates in Ward 1 of the COS Board of Trustees at Brandman University, Visalia campus. For details, call 827-3032 or donaldn@cos.edu.

Oct. 7 – Paint the Town Pink Challenge Entry Deadline
The deadline to enter businesses and organizations in Kaweah Delta's Paint the Town Pink challenge is Oct. 7. Voting ends Oct. 21 and winners will be announced Oct. 22. For information visit kaweahdelta.org or call 624-3209.

Oct. 7 – Heroines and Heroin – 6pm
Lindsay Cultural Arts Council's Annual Dinner, A Night at the Museum, Heroines and Heroin: The extraordinary World of Early Lindsay Medicine will be held at the Lindsay Museum, 165. N. Gale Hill Ave. Tickets are $15. For information, call 562-7168.

Oct. 8 – Meet the Candidates Luncheon – 12-1pm
Lemoore Chamber of Commerce will host candidates for the Lemoore City Council, Kings County Board of Supervisors, Kings County Assessor, 32 District Assembly, 16th District Senate and 21st District Congress at Tachi Palace. Call 924-6401 for tickets, $12.

Oct. 9 – Stor It, Inc Ribbon Cutting – 11am-12pm
Visalia Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon cutting for Stor It, Inc. at 725 N. Plaza Dr. For information, visit visaliachamber.org.

Oct. 10 – FoodLink 20th Annual Golf Classic – 8am
FoodLink will host its tournament at the Ridge Creek Golf Club in Dinuba. Funds raised will help purchase food to supply more than 80 Tulare County nonprofit agencies. To register, call 651-3663 or visit tiny.cc/FoodLinkGolf.

Oct. 10 – 4th Annual Msgr. O'Doherty Memorial Golf Tournament Deadline – 12pm
The deadline to register for the Oct. 24th tournament is Oct. 10. Cost is $75. The tournament will be held at Lemoore Golf Course. For information, call 707-7310.

Oct. 11 – Taste the Arts – 11am-10pm
Artists from throughout Tulare County show, demonstrate, and sell their work. Performances by area musicians and dancers, hands-on activities, special urban art show and workshops, competitions, local authors and more. The free events start at 11am and close at 5pm. Taste the Arts After Dark continues with aerosol art, muralists, B-Boy competition in the Lumber yard from 5-10 pm and urban art, music and hair artistry and fashion show at Garden Street Plaza from 6- 8 pm. For information, visit tastethearts.org.

Oct. 11 – Pioneer Days & Rib Cook-off
Porterville will celebrate its Pioneer Days in Downtown Porterville with a Rib Cook-Off, Pioneer Days Queen Pageant, Live Shoot Out on Main Street, historical re-enactments and displays, vendors, food and more. Proceeds go to Zalud House Museum. For information, visit ci.porterville.ca.us.

Oct. 11 – Exeter Fall Festival – 7am-5pm
Exeter's 101-year-old Fall Festival begins at 7am with a 10K Run and pancake breakfast. The Fall Festival Parade begins at 10am. Other activities include a horseshoe tournament, car and bike show, bratwurst eating contest and pet adoptions. Local entertainment will be featured from 9am to 5pm. Other events will be held throughout the week of Oct. 6-11. For information, visit exeterchamber.com.

Oct. 11 – 3rd Annual Run for Hope – 7-11am
Visalia Rescue Mission will hold a 10K Run and 2-mile Run/Walk at St. John's River Trail in Visalia. The race will begin and end at Cutler Park. To register, visit runsignup.com/Race/CA/Visalia/RunForHope.

Oct. 11-12 – Wanted! Relay for Life of Hanford – 8:30am
The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will be held at Hanford Joint Union High School. Info: visit relayforlife.org/hanfordca.

Oct. 11 – Breastfest 2014 – 10am-10pm
Mountain High Promotions in association with the City of Porterville present a music festival for breast cancer awareness at the Porterville Sports Complex, 2710 Scranton Ave. Live music, beer garden, tattoo booths and more featured. Tickets, $15, will be available at the gate. For information, call 756-1944.

Oct. 11 – 29th Annual Cotton Classic – 6pm
The 29th annual Cotton Classic will showcase the King of the West 410 Sprint Car Series and the USAC West Coast Wingless 360 Spring Car Series at the Thunderbowl Raceway at Tulare County Fairgrounds. For information, visit thunderbowlraceway.com.

Oct. 12 – Second Annual Harvest Fest – 12-4pm
Entertainment, artisan demonstrations, vendors of handcrafted items, silent auctions and more will be at the Sarah A. Mooney Memorial Museum, 542 W. D Street in Lemoore. For information, visit sarahamooneymuseum.com.

Oct. 15 – US Army Recruiting Station Ribbon Cutting – 10:30-11:30am
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce will have a ribbon cutting at 4343 W. Noble Ave.

Oct. 15 – Pro Youth Legacy Dinner – 5:30-8:30pm
Jim Vidak will be honored at the Pro-Youth Legacy Dinner held at the Chinese Cultural Center, 500 S. Akers St., Visalia. Cost is $100. Table sponsorships are available. For information, call 624-5833.

Oct. 16 – Ribbon Cutting - JRM Productions – 10-10:30am
Exeter Chamber of Commerce will welcome JRM Productions at 1094 Lindsay Blvd, Lindsay. A carpool will leave the chamber at 9:30am. For information, call 592-2919.

Oct. 16 – Happy Hearts Golf Tournament – 10:30am
A fundraiser for Children's Hospital Central California will be held at Tulare Golf Course. Tickets, $125, includes green fees, range balls, cart and dinner. For information, call 469-3057.

ART

Through Oct. 31 – Images from Near and Far Artists Reception – 6-8pm
The art of Linda Hengst and Jeri Burzin will be exhibited at Main Gallery through October. For information, visit maingalleryvisalia.com.

Through Oct. 31 – Deanna Saldana Artist Exhibit
Deanna Saldana will be showcasing her artwork at Michael's Custom Jewelry, 316 W. Center St., Visalia. The exhibition will feature original works spanning 15 years including several new works. For information, visit facebook.com/DeannaSaldanaArtProductions.

Oct. 2 - Nov. 1 – Tulare Historical Museum Vaults Exhibit – 10am-4pm
Tulare Historical Museum artwork from its vintage art collection will be on display at Heritage Art Gallery, 444 W. Tulare Ave., Tulare. The exhibit is open Thursday through Saturday. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

Oct. 3 – Porterville Art Walk – 5-8pm
On the first Friday of each month, a free self-guided tour of local artisans, galleries, art studios, museums and alternative art venues is featured. For information, visit portervilleartwalk.org.

Oct. 3 & Nov. 6 – Downtown Visalia's First Friday – 5:30-8:30pm
On the first Friday of each month, artists and businesses throughout Downtown Visalia come together to celebrate and share their art. For more information, visit theartsconsortium.org.

Oct. 3 – Casey and Ryan Supple Artists Reception – 5:30-8pm
A reception for artists Casey and Ryan Supple will be held at the Brandon-Mitchell Gallery during the First Friday art walk on Oct. 3 from 5:30-8 p.m. The Brandon-Mitchell Gallery is at 117 S. Locust, Visalia. For information, call 625-2441 or visit www.spiritualawarenesscenter.com.

Oct. 3 – Raven Art Show Reception – 7pm
A reception for artists exhibited in the Raven Art Show will be held at Cort Gallery. The exhibit features raven art in all mediums. Winners of a children's art contest will also be announced. For information, visit facebook.com/threerivers.arts.

Oct. 4 – 1st Saturday – 11am-5pm
Artists of Three Rivers have joined together to create a day of food, fun and art on the first Saturday of every month featuring artists, restaurants, gift shops, galleries and more. Watch the artist paint or listen to musicians or storytellers. For information, visit 1stsaturdaytr.com.

Oct. 8 & 22 – Crafty Corner: Knit and Crochet Group – 10:30am-12pm
Learn and practice fiber arts on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at Visalia Branch Library. For information, call 713-2703.

Oct. 12 – Antique and Collectible Show – 8am-4pm
Hanford Carnegie Museum will host this show at 108 E. Eighth St. Bring up to three antiques or collectibles to have appraised between 11am to 1pm.

Oct. 18 – #Insiders – 1-5pm
The Kings Art Center will open its #Insiders exhibit with a reception at the Kings Art Center, 605 N. Douty, Hanford. The exhibit is a group show of California-based artists whose work portrays contemporary graffiti, street and public art. Live demonstrations are featured. The exhibit runs through Nov. 22. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

Oct. 19 – Tulare Historical Museum Open for Free – 12:30-4pm
Admission to the Tulare Historical Museum and Art Gallery will be at no cost. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

Oct. 22 – Graffiti/Street Art Exhibit Reception – 5:30-7:30pm
A reception for Graffiti Street Art Exhibit will be held at the Marcelllus Gallery in the Kings Art Center. The exhibit will run from Oct. 12 through Nov. 23. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

Oct. 25 – 35th Annual Show & Sale – 10am-3pm
Handweavers of the Valley will host Harvest of Handwovens at Exeter Veterans Memorial Building, 324 N. Kaweah Ave. Admission is free. Holiday gifts, rugs and demonstrations will be featured. For information, visit hwotv.org.

Oct. 25 – Harvest Splendor Boutique & Luncheon – 10am-2pm
The Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Grace Lutheran Church in Visalia will have an assortment of handmade decorations and holiday gift items, as well as a bakery. Lunch will be served at 11:30am. Tickets are $8; $3 for children 10 and under, and sold following church services. Reservations can also be made by calling 623-9588 or 901-8515.

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 – Central California Quilt & Sew Retreat
Thimble Towne presents three days of sewing at the Visalia Convention Center. Freebies and giveaways, a truck show on Nov. 2, breakfast, lunch and snacks included. To register, visit Thimble Towne at 400 W. Caldwell Ave., Suite F, in Visalia.

Nov. 6-Jan. 3 – Paintings by Nadi Spencer
"Paintings by Nadi Spencer" opens November 5 in the Tulare Historical Museum and Gallery and runs through Jan. 3. A reception for the Three Rivers resident will be held at the Heritage Art Gallery Nov. 6 from 5-7pm. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

Nov. 7 – Hidden in the Leaves Artist Reception – 5:30-8pm
Local artists will celebrate the autumn in Three Rivers with an exhibit that will run Nov. 1 to Nov. 30 at Arts Alliance of Three Rivers, 41717 Sierra Dr. An artist reception will be held Nov. 7. The event is sponsored by the Arts Alliance of Three Rivers and Sierra Subs and Salads.

COMMUNITY

Oct. 3 – First Friday with a Physician – 12–1:30pm
On the First Friday each month, Adventist Medical Center in Hanford hosts a physician seminar series. Info: call 589-2032.

Oct. 4 – Barrier Awareness Day
The City of Visalia, Kaweah Delta Hospital and RICV (Resources for Independence Central Valley) will present an event to promote awareness of disabled persons at Garden Street Plaza in Visalia. Admission is free. For information, call 308-8006.

Oct. 4 – VCA & Friends Fundraiser – 12-4pm
A fundraiser for Heavyn Leighson, a 4-year-old with pediatric nerve cancer, will be held at the Valley Cycle Association Clubhouse in Four K Bar Ranch, 18850 Ave. 300, Exeter. Food, raffles and music are featured. Tickets are $10, in advance, and $15 at the gate. Info: call 805-8436 or 936-0358.

Oct. 4 – Soberfest 2014 – 3pm
Christ Lutheran Church will hold Soberfest featuring tri-tip and spaghetti dinner, 50/50 raffle and speaker Pat B from Fresno at the church. Dinner will be served at 5 with the speaker at 7pm. The church is located at 3830 W. Tulare Ave., Visalia. Cost for the dinner is $12 in advance and $15 at the door. The speaker meeting is free.

Oct. 5 – M.I.Q. Fall Festival – 11am-7pm
Mary Immaculate Queen School in Lemoore will have carnival games, bingo, silent auction, entertainment and food at its festival. For information, call 836-3960.

Oct. 6, 7 – Uggs, Scrubs and Dubs
Kaweah Delta Hospital Guild will offer men's and women's scrubs, shoes, uggs and medical accessories for sale to raise funds for Kaweah Delta Health Care. On Oct. 6, the items will be available in the Acequia Wing from 6am to 4pm. On Oct. 7, they will be available from 6:30am to 4pm in the Mineral King Wing of Kaweah Delta Medical Center.

Oct. 6 – Three Rivers Woman's Club – 1-3pm
Every month on the first Monday, the Three River's Women's Club meets at the Memorial Building. For information, visit threerivers.com.

Oct. 6 – Stress Management in Spanish – 5-7pm
Family HealthCare Network offers a 4-week course on stress management. For information and enrollment, call 1-877-960-3426.

Oct. 7 – Cancer Caregiver Support Group – 1:30-3pm
This Kaweah Delta Cancer Caregiver Support group meets at Sequoia Regional Cancer Center, 4945 W. Cypress Ave, on the first Tuesday of every month. For information, call 624-3225.

Oct. 7 – Stress Management – 5-7pm
Family HealthCare Network offers a 4-week course on stress management. For information and enrollment, call 1-877-960-3426.

Oct. 7 & 21 – Young Lives Club - 6:30 - 8pm
The Young Lives Club, a support group for teen moms and dads, meets on the first and third Tuesdays each month at Woodlake Presbyterian, 600 W. Naranjo. Intergenerational games: cards, board games, dominoes and more are featured. For information, call 584-8460.

Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29 – Medicare Extra Help – 1-4pm
Every Wednesday, Tulare Senior Center offers free counseling for Medicare beneficiaries. Help with prescription plans, claims, appeals and general information. This program is sponsored by Kings/Tulare AAA HICAP. Appointments available by calling 623-0199.

Oct. 9 - Interviewing 101– 8-9am
The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center will hold a free workshop in SM102 (Forum) with National University's Jonathan Schultz. To RSVP call 791-2216. For information, visit www.portervillecollege.edu.

Oct. 9 & Nov. 13 – Garden Club Meeting – 9:30am
The Tulare Garden Club will meet at the Tulare Museum's Heritage Art Gallery. Info: visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

Oct. 9 – Valley Oak Quilt Guild – 10am
Valley Oak Quilt Guild will meet at Tulare Community Church, 1820 N Gem, in Tulare. There will be a trunk show of quilts by the Porterville Quilt Guild. In addition, the mystery quilts for this year will be revealed. For information, visit www.valleyoakqg.org.

Oct. 9 – Karl Marlantes on The Experience of War – 10:30am
Author Karl Marlantes will be at the Visalia Veterans Memorial Building to discuss his book, "What is it Like to Go to War" and to answer questions. For information, visit tclwarcomeshome.blogspot.com.

Oct 9 & 23 – Oakland Raiders Boosters Meeting – 7pm
Tulare Kings Counties Oakland Raiders Boosters meet on the second and fourth Thursdays each month at Elks Lodge, 3100 W. Main St., Visalia.

Oct. 10 – Graphic Novel Club – 4-5pm
The Graphic Novel Club will meet at the Tulare Public Library in the Olympic Room. The group meets on the second Friday of each month. For information, call 685-4500.

Oct. 11 – Walk with a Doc – 8-9am
Healthy Visalia Committee holds its "Just Walk" program at Riverway Sports Park, 3611 N. Dinuba Blvd., every second Saturday of the month through December. The free program requires no pre-registration. During the walk, a healthy topic is presented and snacks are provided. For information, visit walkwithadoc.org.

Oct. 11 – Second Saturday Book Club – 11am – 12pm
The club will discuss various banned books in celebration of banned book month. The club meets in the Charter Room of the Tulare Public Library, 475 North M Street. To register for book clubs call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

Oct. 11-12 – Vossler Farms Pumpkin Patch
and Corn Maze Blood Drive – 12-4:30pm Central Valley Blood Center will accept donations at Vossler Farms, 26772 S. Mooney Blvd, Visalia.

Oct. 12 – Developing Gardens – 8:45-2:30pm
UCCE Master Gardeners of Tulare & Kings Counties will present a one-day workshop for Garden Teams at St. Aloysius Elementary School, 627 N. Beatrice St., Tulare. Participants will share ideas for designing and using educational school and community gardens. Teams must include 2 or 3 people and a teacher or youth/community leader. Registration, $25 per person, must be made by Oct. 10. For information, visit cetulare.ucdavis.edu.

Oct. 12 – Second Sunday Seminars – 2-3pm
The Sarah Mooney Museum features seminars on the second Sunday every month. The programs focus on specific elements of turn-of-the-century life in the Lemoore/Kings County area. Luiz Rodriguez will discuss the life and workings of the Victor Victrola Company. The museum, located at 542 W. D Street in Lemoore, is open every Sunday afternoon from 12-3pm for docent-led tours and special activities. Info: visit sarahamooneymuseum.com.

Oct. 13 – Parenting Classes – 5-7pm
Family HealthCare Network offers a 6-week course on parenting. For information and enrollment, call 1-877-960-3426.

Oct. 14 – Exeter Friends of the Library – 7pm
The Exeter Friends of the Library meets on the second Tuesday each month at the Exeter Branch Library, 230 E. Chestnut.

Oct. 14 – Valley Oak SPCA Yappy Hour – 5-9pm
The Planning Mill Pizzeria will donate a portion of Yappy Hour proceeds to Valley Oak SPCA on the Second Tuesday of each month. Well-behaved, leashed pets are welcome on the patio at The Planning Mill, 514 E. Main St., Suite A, Visalia. For information, visit vospca.org.

Oct. 15 - Financial Literacy: Budgeting Basics – 11:30am-12:30pm
The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center will hold a free workshop in CA-4 (PC Theater) with Finance and Thrift's Tom Zarate. Learn budgeting basics and how to set attainable financial goals. To RSVP call 791-2216. For information, visit www.portervillecollege.edu.

Oct. 15 & 29 – The Knitting Club – 5:30pm
The Tulare Public Library knitting club meets every other Wednesday in the Olympic Room.

Oct. 15 – Mystery Readers Book Club – 6:30-8pm
The book club will meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Visalia Branch Library, 200 W. Oak St. For information, call 713-2709.

Oct. 15 – Spinal Cord Injury Support Group – 6:30-7:30pm
The Spinal Cord Injury Support Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Kaweah Delta Rehabilitation Hospital, 840 S. Akers St. For information, visit KaweahDelta.org.

Oct. 15-18 – Grand Chapter of CA Order of Eastern Star Convention
The member-only convention will be held at Visalia Convention Center. The gathering allows members to have a voice in the policies of the Order, elect leadership and enjoy fellowship with other members. A "Dance with Hope" will be held on Oct. 15.

Oct. 16-23 – AAUW Book Sale – 10am-8:30pm
The American Association of University Women Visalia-Sequoia Branch will hold a book sale at the Sequoia Mall during mall hours. The mall is open 10am-8:30pm Monday through Friday; 10am-7pm Saturday; and 11am-6pm Sunday. On Oct. 16, a special preview night (prices are doubled) will be held from 6 to 8:30pm. Proceeds go to local scholarships.

Oct. 16- Benefit Access – 1-2pm
The Porterville College Job, Entrepreneur, and Career (J.E.C.) Center will hold a free workshop in SM102 (Forum) with J.E.C. Job Development Specialist, Martha Lozano. Learn about the different agencies that are in our community and how they can help you reach your career goals. To RSVP call 791-2216. For information, visit www.portervillecollege.edu.

Oct. 16 – "The Raven" – 6:30pm
Winners of the Raven Writing Contest will be announced at the Three Rivers Library. A special reading of "The Raven" poem and Three Rivers Parody will be presented by Christina Lynch. The event is part of the festivities for the Three Rivers Raven Festival. For information, call 561-3246.

Oct. 17 & Nov. 21 – Palette Club Meeting – 7pm.
The Tulare Palette Club will meet at the Tulare Museum's Heritage Art Gallery. Info: visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

Oct. 18 – 3rd Annual Harvest Soup Cook-off – 1:30pm
A fundraiser to benefit Ecos Soup Kitchen will be held at the Episcopal Church of the Savior, 519 N. Douty St. in Hanford. In addition to the cook-off and beer and wine garden, tours of the Soup Kitchen and His-

THEATER

Oct. 2-4 – The Lisa Project
A 10-minute interactive child abuse prevention presentation will be held at the Rotary Theater at Redwood High School in Visalia. There will be a showing for students at 8am and 3pm; a showing for the public at 4pm and 8pm, and on Oct. 4 at 10am to 3pm. For information, visit thelisaproject.org.

Through Oct. 11 – The Secret Garden
The Enchanted Playhouse presents "The Secret Garden," about a spoiled young orphan who discovers a hidden neglected garden. The play will be held on Friday and Saturday at 7pm, and Sunday at 2pm at Main Street Theatre, 307 E. Main, Visalia. Info: visit enchantedplayhouse.org.

Oct. 3-9 – Trip to Bountiful – 7:30pm
Visalia Players Theater Company presents this masterpiece, written by Horton Foote, at the Ice House Theater, 410 E Race Ave., Visalia. Matinee showings will be 2pm Oct. 12 and 19. Regular showings will be Oct. 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 7:30pm. For tickets and information, visit visaliaplayers.org.

Oct. 3-18 – 37 Postcards
Encore Theatre presents "37 Postcards," about a man who returns home after years of traveling abroad to find nothing is the way he remembers it. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm, and Sundays at 2pm. For information, visit tulareencoretheatre.org.

Oct. 4 – 3 Bad Men – 7pm
Mavericks Coffee House in Visalia will host a screening of this epic Western directed by John Ford. Dave Bourne will accompany the film on piano. Tickets are $10. Call 624-1400.

Oct. 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, & 25 – A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum – 7:30pm
Lindsay Community Theater presents its fall musical. The theater is located at 190 N Elmwood. Tickets, $15 for adults and $10 for students, are available at visit lindsaycommunitytheater.com.

Oct. 25 – Respect: A Musical Journey of Women – 7:30pm
Visalia Community Players presents "Respect: A Musical Journey of Women" at Visalia Fox Theater, 300 Main St. Reserved Seating: $29. VIP Seating: $64 (includes premium orchestra seating at the Fox Theatre, and pre-show celebration that includes spirits and appetizers at 5:45pm at Tazzaria and Fox Theatre restoration fee). For information, visit foxvisalia.org.

Oct. 26 – Short Film Premier
Remscape presents the premier of "Fovos: Fear Wants to Play," a film by Joshua Corderos at the Hanford Civic Auditorium. Tickets $2. Due to disturbing elements and scary images, parental discretion is advised. For information, visit fovos.remscape.com.

Randy Sharp to Perform in Lindsay on October 11

The Lindsay Community Theater will present a performance by Randy Sharp on October 11 at 7:30pm.

Randy Sharp

Sharp is a country singer/songwriter who has written songs for such music notables as Clay Walker, Patty Loveless, Reba McEntire, the Dixie Chicks, Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt, Emmy Lou Harris, Tanya Tucker, Kathy Mattea, Anne Murray, Oak Ridge Boys, Marty Robbins, Jerry Reed, Lee Greenwood, Delaney Bramlett, Mandy Barnett, Ray Stevens, Edgar Winter, Texas Tornadoes, Blood Sweat and Tears, Patti Page and Big Bird. Many of his songs have received awards, including Grammys.

Sharp has written many songs that have risen to the top of the country music charts, such as "Why Does It Have to Be Wrong or Right" and "A Tender Lie" by Restless Heart, "Nobody's Talking," "Even Now" and "Yet" recorded by Exile; and "Then What" recorded by Clay Walker. His other charted songs include: "The Cheap Seats" by Alabama; "You Will" by Patti Loveless; "New Way Out" by Karen Brooks; "If That's What You're Thinking" by Karen Brooks; "Unconditional Love" by Glen Campbell; "She Can't Love You" by Boy Howdy; "Could It Be Love" by Jennifer Warnes; and "Take Your Love Away" by Mary McGregor.

Randy is credited with songs in several Hollywood films, including "The Horse Whisperer," "The Apostle," "Follow That Bird" (Sesame Street Movie) and "Speechless." He also served as president of the board of directors of the National Academy of Songwriters for three years, and is currently a board member of the Songwriters Guild of America.

Tickets are $20 and can be ordered online at lindsaycommunitytheater.com. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Adrian Brannan, also known as "Buckaroogirl," will perform at Mavericks Coffee House in Visalia at 7pm on Saturday, October 18. First and foremost a cowhand, Brennan was born and raised on ranches in California where she's done everything from doctoring cattle to riding saddle broncs. She is also an accomplished Western music singer/songwriter, with three albums to her credit. For tickets ($25) or more information, call Mavericks at 624-1400, or stop by at 238 E. Caldwell Avenue, Visalia.

Taste the Arts

Continued from p. 17

It is the story of an orphan, sent to live with her brooding uncle, who finds beauty and hope in a secret garden beyond a hidden gate. Families and children in 3rd grade and above will enjoy this adaptation of the classic children's book as performed by the Enchanted Playhouse Theatre Company. For more information, go to enchantedplayhouse.org.

Taste the Arts has a variety of activities for children.

Visalia Community Players are offering a two-for-one discount for the October 11-12 performances of "A Trip to Bountiful" if you mention Taste the Arts. Reservation information is online at visaliaplayers.org.

Over the decades, this valley has inspired many who create with the written word. Several local authors will be selling their books, which include a variety of genres, from children's books to local history, poetry, and adult and juvenile fiction and non-fiction. They will be happy to sign your purchase.

The Urbanists Collective and CA Looks Salon will keep things hopping long after 5pm when the street booths close. At the Lumber Yard, The Urbanists will continue demonstrations and hands on activities with muralists painting into the night, beats (music) from 5-8pm, and a B-Boy Battle from 8-10 pm. B-Boy competitions are a fast paced dance event with performers showing off their best acrobatic moves in an attempt to best the others and win cash prizes.

Meanwhile, at Garden Street Plaza, CA Looks Salon will host Taste the Arts After Dark from 6-8pm. Performances will showcase additional urban art, including graffiti art, photography, and hair artistry and fashion by CA Looks and Bolings Barber Shop and Shave parlor. Musicians and dance groups will perform onstage, and food and beverages will be available.

This one-day festival promises to be even bigger than last year. For more information on the Arts Consortium and arts in Tulare County, including a yearlong calendar of events, pick up the free *Taste the Arts Magazine* or visit artsconsortium.org or "Arts Consortium" on Facebook.

Dawes

Dawes to Headline The Cellar Door on October 8

Staff Reports

Dawes will headline a 9pm show at The Cellar Door in Downtown Visalia on Wednesday, October 8. This month, the band is doing a special tour, stopping in small towns between Los Angeles and San Francisco to try out material for their next album.

Dawes opened for Bob Dylan on a 2013 tour, backed Jackson Browne on his 2011 tour, and has played behind Robbie Robertson (The Band) and John Fogerty (Creedence Clearwater Revival). They keep pushing forward with a frenetic tour schedule and an earnest desire to keep getting better.

Taylor Goldsmith is Dawes' primary songwriter, singer and spokesman, but the band, which includes Taylor's brother Griffin, Wylie Gelber and Tay Strathairn, operates as one. They are among the few younger bands vying for the type of longevity, cohesiveness and consistency exemplified by the likes of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, and Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band.

"We've grown up really feeling the need to express ourselves by how we play," explained Goldsmith. "I think our tightness as a band is a byproduct of that. I feel like we are getting to a place where you can hear us play one chord for eight bars and think, 'This is Dawes.'

"I feel like being a singularity as a band is something you want, but you can't fabricate it," he continued. "It's either going to happen or not. As much as I admire the careers of artists like Paul Simon, Bob Dylan and even Conor Oberst – who go through different phases to their sound – that's not really how it works for bands. You look at the careers of Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers or the E Street Band, and unless Bruce is leaving and doing solo records, there's a very clear continuity that defines all the records together. When you go back and listen to 30 years of Tom Petty records, they are pretty consistent. I love that. That's the game we're playing right now."

Henry Wolfe will kick off the evening. For the past, Wolfe's music has been described as a pleasant mix of jaunty, classic rock and easy-listening music that harkens back to artists like Steely Dan and Randy Newman. His warm disposition, funky stage presence, and smooth, easy voice call to mind the best of the 70's. His refreshingly well-crafted organic sound is far too uncommon in present-day music.

Tickets for the 21+ show are $20 and available at Ticketweb.com.

Symphony

Continued from p. 17

at the symphony office, 208 W. Main St., Suite D, Visalia, downstairs in Montgomery Square. Student prices are $10. Tickets are also available at 732-8600 and at www.tularecountysymphony.com.

Concertgoers are invited to arrive at 6:45pm to hear Kiesling give what is always a lively pre-concert talk about the concert. They are also encouraged to "Adopt a Musician" in the lobby of the Fox. Patrons who adopt a musician in the orchestra will receive a nametag to wear and will be invited to a year-end event to meet their adoptee.

Fall Festival

Continued from p. 17

show. Advance tickets ($20) are required and available at the chamber office.

Wednesday, October 8, from 4:30-7pm - Pumpkin Carving Contest and Family Fun Night at Pine and E Street. The City of Exeter Community Services sponsors the contest with Miss Exeter candidates serving as judges. Immediately after, games and activities geared to children from 4-15 are set up throughout the downtown area by businesses. Unlimited game passes are $3 per child. Included in the games are ring toss, face painting, apple bobbing, petting zoo, etc. Every child wins a small prize.

Thursday, October 9, from 5-6:30pm - Exeter Chamber of Commerce Mixer hosted by Exeter branch of the Bank of the Sierra will honor Miss Exeter and Court. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Friday, October 10, at 6pm - Lip Sync Contest sponsored by the City of Exeter Community Services Department at Exeter City Park. For information, call 592-5262.

Saturday, October 11 - 5K Run and Pancake Breakfast at Exeter City Park at 7am. Fall Festival Parade starts at 10am in the park with live entertainment all day featuring Run4Cover from 11:30am to 1:30pm under the gazebo. There will be arts and crafts, games, pet adoptions, petting zoo, live reptile show and food. The 8th Annual Car & Bike Show, from 11am to 3pm, will feature custom vehicles, classic cars, hot rods and bikes on E Street between Chestnut and Pine.

For more information, call the Exeter Chamber at 592-2919.

Five Veterans of 'Saturday Night Live' to Perform at Eagle Mountain Casino

Eagle Mountain Casino will present a show featuring five veteran cast members of "Saturday Night Live" – Rob Schneider, Jon Lovitz, Horatio Sanz, Tim Meadows and Chris Kattan – on Saturday, October 18.

Schneider was an SNL cast member from 1990-1994, playing such roles as "Tiny Elvis" and "Orgasm Guy," but his best-known recurring character was "Richard Laymer" (the Richmeister). He had starring roles in "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," "The Hot Chick" and "Grown Ups."

Rob Schneider

Jon Lovitz

Horatio Sanz

Tim Meadows

Chris Kattan

Lovitz was an SNL cast member from 1985-1990, where he was known for many characters, including "Tommy Flanagan of Pathological Liars Anonymous" ("Yeah, that's the ticket!"), "Master Thespian," "Hannukuh Harry" and "the Devil." He has appeared in more than 30 movies, including "Big," "A League of Their Own," "The Wedding Singer," "High School High," "Small Time Crooks" and "Rat Race."

Sanz joined SNL as a featured player at the beginning of its 24th season, and was the show's first Latino cast member. On the show, he played the characters "Frankie Hilbert" on the sketch "Boston Teens," pothead "Gobi" on "Jarret's Room," and A/V teacher "Mr. Banglian" on "Wake Up, Wakefield." Sanz most recently starred in the Comedy Central series "Big Lake."

Meadows was on SNL for ten seasons from 1991-2000, where he often spoofed famous personalities such as O.J. Simpson, Michael Jackson, Tiger Woods, Oprah Winfrey and Erykah Badu, as well as his own character, Leon Phelps, "The Ladies' Man." Meadows had a regular role on the short-lived NBC sitcom "The Michael Richards Show" and a supporting role in the 2004 film "The Cookout." He also guest starred as a client on the hit NBC comedy "The Office" and had parts in in "Mean Girls," "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story," "Coneheads," "It's Pat" and "Wayne's World 2."

Kattan crafted characters as such "Mango" and "Mr. Peepers" on SNL before moving on to films such as "A Night at the Roxbury" and "Corky Romano." He had a recurring role for the first four seasons of the comedy series "The Middle."

Tickets ($55, $40) are available at www.eaglemtncasino.com and at the casino gift shop (800-903-3353). Doors will open at 7pm with the 18+ show starting at 8pm.

Debbie Walker as Carrie (left) and Aaron Johnson as Ludie in "The Trip to Bountiful"

Visalia Players Present 'The Trip to Bountiful'

Nancy Holley

The Visalia Players will present Horton Foote's masterpiece, "The Trip to Bountiful," which tells the story of Carrie Watts, who longs to return to the quiet, the landscape, the wildlife and the breeze from the gulf that epitomize Bountiful. If she can just get to Bountiful, everything will be right again.

The play begins at an unfortunate time for the Watts family. Carrie's son Ludie has just returned to work after an extended illness that depleted the family's savings; daughter-in-law Jesse Mae is wrestling with the premonition that she may never have any children; and Carrie's failing health is making her even more desperate to return to Bountiful.

Debbie Walker (Carrie) describes Carrie as a country lady without much education who loved working the land and now feels trapped in the city. "She knows she has a bad heart and is ready to die, but not in Houston. She views Bountiful as paradise and wants to be there for eternity."

Ludie (Aaron Johnson), concerned for his mother's health, is against her making the trip. According to Johnson, Ludie is frustrated by his relationships with his wife and his mother. "He loves them both, but it's a real struggle for him. Sometimes he has to say things to his mother because of his wife that he doesn't want to say."

"Jessie Mae never expected her life to go as it has," noted Nicole Griffiths, who plays the role. "She had many dreams, but is starting to realize that they are not going to happen." She added that she can relate to Jessie Mae. "Many of her struggles hit very close to home."

Director Peg Collins believes that Foote was masterful in his ability to depict the complexity of relationships when dealing with life's changes. "Carrie's trip to Bountiful helps her come to terms with her situation and find peace with dignity at the end of her life."

Several cast members described an association between the circumstances of the Watts family and those living in the Central Valley, where "families came here from the Dust Bowl and had to struggle" and many "have to live multi-generationally for economic reasons."

On Sunday, October 12, after the matinee, "Backstage at the Ice House" will be hosted by Sharon DeCoux, a veteran Visalia Player. Audience members will have an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at the show and the opportunity to ask questions and interact with cast/crew.

"The Trip to Bountiful" runs for two weekends at the Ice House Theater at Race and Santa Fe in Visalia. Evening performances are at 7:30pm on October 10, 11, 17 and 18, and matinees are at 2pm on October 12 and 19. To purchase tickets, visit www.visaliaplayers.org, "Visalia Community Players" on Facebook, or call 734-3900.